SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

THE POWER OF NEGATIVE THINKING VOLUME 1

KOJI KUMETA

Sayonara, Zetsubou-Sensei: The Power of Negative Thinking, volume 1 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

Sayonara, Zetsubou-Sensei: The Power of Negative Thinking, volume 1 copyright © 2005 Koji Kumeta
English translation copyright © 2009 Koji Kumeta

All rights reserved.

Published in the United States by Kodansha Comics, an imprint of Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC, New York.

Publication rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

First published in Japan in 2005 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo, as *Sayonara Zetsubou-Sensei*, volume 1.

ISBN 978-1-61262-501-0

www.kodanshacomics.com

Translator/Adapter: Joyce Aurino
Lettering: Foltz Design

SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

The Power of Negative Thinking 1

Koji Kumeta

Translated and adapted by Joshua Weeks
Lettered by North Market Street Graphics

KC KODANSHA COMICS

©2011 Koji Kumeta. All rights reserved.
First published in Japan in 2005 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Publication rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

The Power of Negative Thinking 1

CONTENTS

Honorifics Explained	v
Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei: The Power of Negative Thinking	1
Bonus Materials	151
About the Author	164
Translation Notes	165

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha Comics not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics books.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/

Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

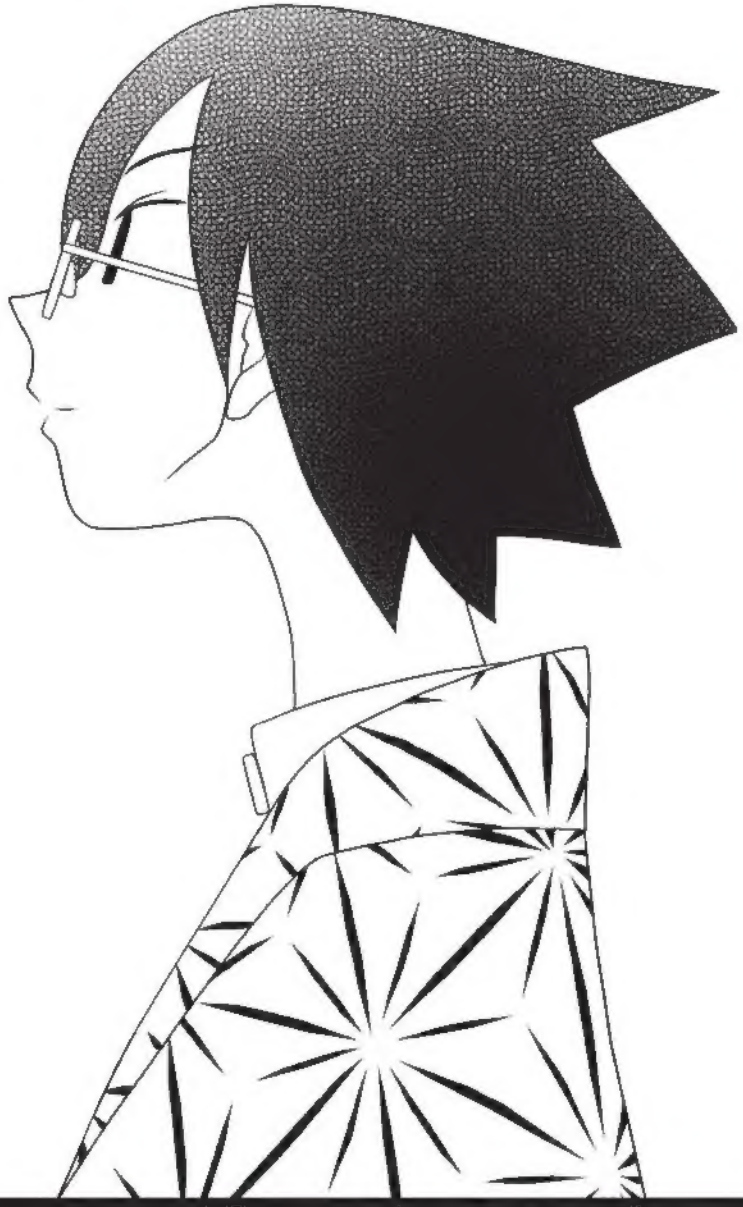
Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific, known as *yobisute,* means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. It can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Koji Kumeta

SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI 1

The Power of Negative Thinking

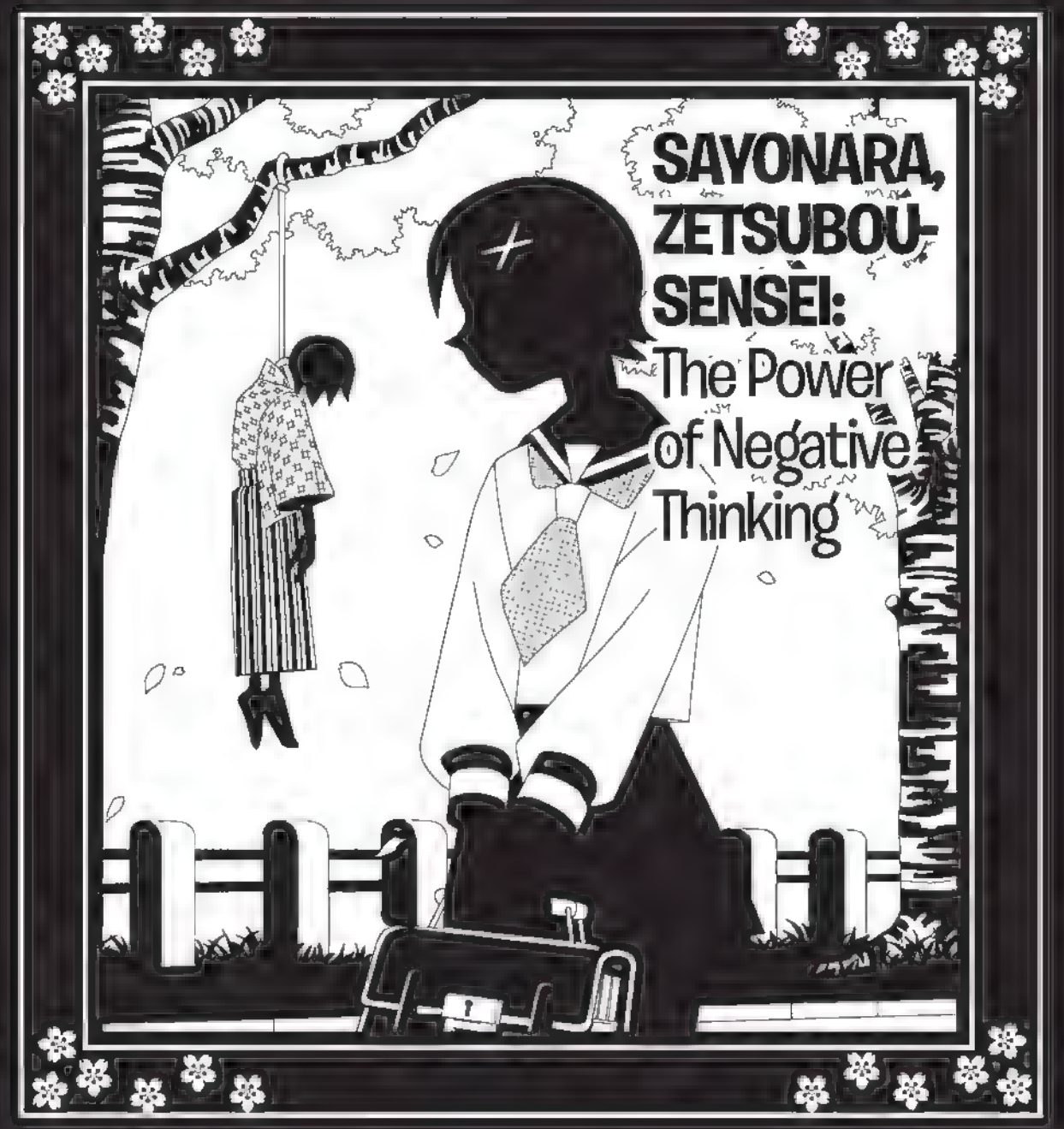


Contents

Chapter 1 - Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei 6
Chapter 2 - Zetsubou-sensei Returns 20
Chapter 3 - Beyond the Tunnel Was Whiteness 30
Chapter 4 - Before Me, There's No One; Behind Me, There's You 44
Chapter 5 - Not Losing to Elbows, Not Losing to Knees 58
Chapter 6 - Fly Over That Country to Come Here 72
Chapter 7 - The Antenna Is Rising...We Must Attempt to Live! 86
Chapter 8 - Align Your Books Precisely on the Shelves,
Go Out into the Streets! 100
Chapter 9 - No Matter What, We've Got to Stick Together 114
Chapter 10 -This Class Has Many Problems, Please Understand 128

The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional. Originally published in 2005 in *Weekly Shônen Magazine* #22/23 (double issue) to #31.

"A VERY SMALL DEGREE OF HOPE IS SUFFICIENT TO CREATE THE BIRTH OF LOVE."
-HENRI B. STENDHAL, FRANCE (1783-1842)
IT WAS A SPRING DAY IN APRIL. MY HEART WAS BRIMMING WITH HOPE.



CHAPTER 1

NOOO, YOU MUSTN'T!
ぎゅっ
CHOKE
じたばた
TUSSLE
STRUGGLE
STRUGGLE
○×△◇
∀♀%※!!
DON'T DO IT! YOU CAN'T THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY!

どさっ
THUD
ぶちっ
SNAP
KOFF...!
ぜぃ
ぜぃ
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
WHAT IF I HAD DIED?!

ONCE AGAIN...
...I COULDN'T DIE...
SLIP
SIGH...
.....
UH...
WHAT...?

BUT, YOU SAID, "WHAT IF I HAD DIED?"
WHY'D YOU STOP ME?

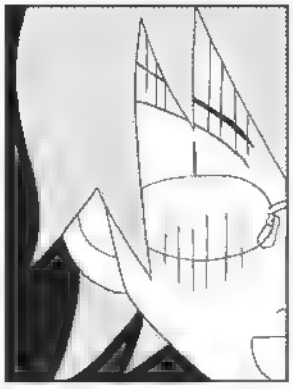
I WAS SO READY AND EAGER TO DIE...
YOU DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO!
I'M AN UTTERLY WORTHLESS HUMAN BEING.
YOU DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO DIE, DID YOU?

...THERE'S NO *WAY* ANYONE WOULD WANT TO COMMIT SUICIDE!
ON A BEAUTIFUL SPRING DAY LIKE THIS...
SPRING... THE SEASON OF NEW BEGINNINGS!
"PINK GABRIEL"?
IF YOU KILL YOURSELF ON A DAY LIKE THIS, THEN *"PINK GABRIEL"* WON'T FORGIVE YOU.
THE SEASON WHEN LOVE, DREAMS, AND HAPPINESS ARE BORN!
I GAVE IT A NAME.
THIS GLORIOUS CHERRY TREE!
EVERYTHING STARTS WITH SPRING. SPRING WELCOMES US INTO THE FUTURE!

IT'S LIKE AN ARCHANGEL, WHO'S SPREADING HIS WINGS.
IT LOOKS SO MAGNIFICENT...WITH ITS BIG, STRONG BRANCHES THAT SPREAD OUTWARD WITH INFINITE PETALS...
JUST NOW...
SO, I'VE DECIDED TO NAME IT "PINK GABRIEL"!
YOUR NAMING METHOD'S SUBTLY INCONSISTENT...
AND THAT TREE IS "PINK YOUNG COMPANY PRESIDENT"!
THAT TREE IS "PINK DIAMAOH, THE GREAT DEMON KING"!
BY THE WAY, THAT OTHER TREE'S CALLED "PINK UDAIJIN"!
HMM. NOW, WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU?
I GOT IT!
SINCE YOU WERE HANGING FROM THE PINK YOUNG COMPANY PRESIDENT...
WHO IS THIS, ANYHOW? ANNE OF GREEN GABLES?
AND THIS IS THE TREASURE CHEST FOR THE FREE PEOPLE.
TRASH

"PINK BRANCH BOSS."

YOU CAN'T JUST ARBITRARILY CHANGE MY NAME LIKE THAT!
BESIDES, THAT ONE SOUNDS LIKE IT'S FROM SOME SEX COMEDY.
WHA—
THAT SETTLES IT! FROM NOW ON, I'M GOING TO CALL YOU "PINK BRANCH BOSS."



• YAHOO BB STADIUM
• AJINOMOTO STADIUM
YOU NEED CASH TO GET NAMING RIGHTS FOR BALLPARKS AND SPORTS STADIUMS.
IN THIS DAY AND AGE, YOU CAN'T JUST NAME THINGS AS YOU LIKE.

YAHOO -OO!
BLOING
JAPAN'S FAMOUS MT. YAHOO BB
EVEN MT. FUJI WILL INEVITABLY BE NAMED SOMETHING LIKE "MT. YAHOO BB"!

SOMEDAY, MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS WILL BE NAMED AFTER I.T. COMPANIES.
LIVE-
RAKUTEN HARBOR
MICROSOFT RIVER
MT. GOOGLE
DOCOMO HILLS

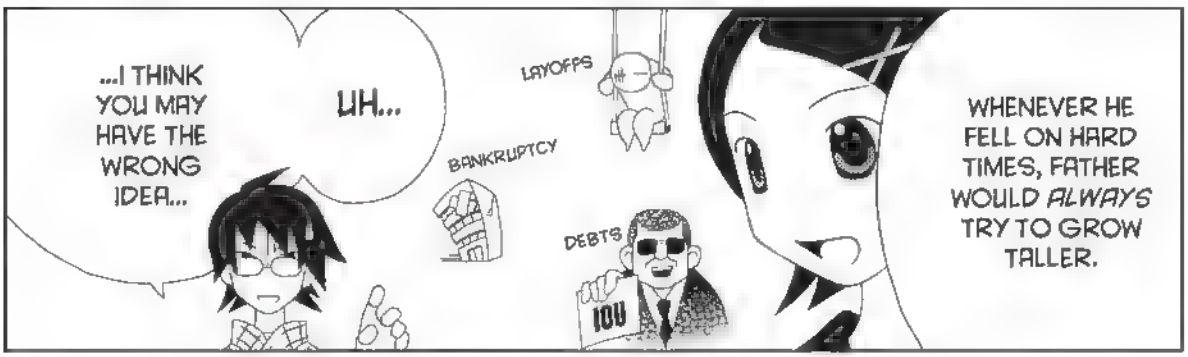
YOU DON'T NEED TO PAY ME—JUST DON'T CALL ME THAT!
IF I'VE GOT TO PAY TO CALL YOU "PINK BRANCH BOSS," I'LL GIVE YOU 50 YEN.

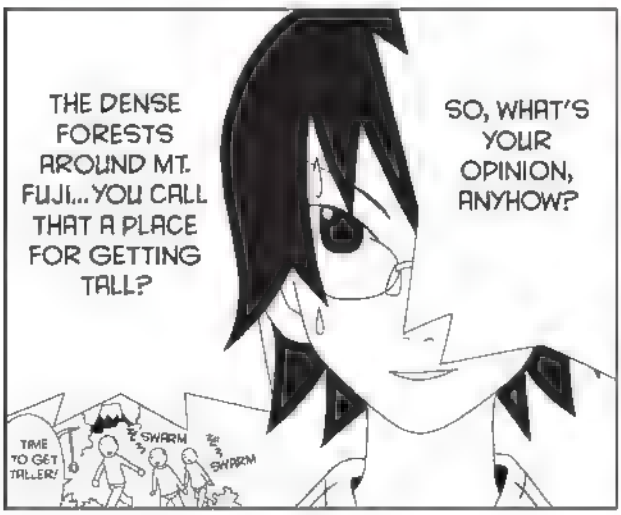
A WORTH-LESS, ROTTEN WORLD.
IT'S A ROTTEN WORLD.
BUT I'M OFFERING YOU 50 YEN.
EVEN AT A GIRL'S SCHOOL, IT ALL COMES DOWN TO MONEY.
EVERYTHING'S ABOUT MONEY, MONEY, MONEY....

*50 YEN=ABOUT 50 CENTS

WHEN I SAW YOU, I REMEMBERED...
HUH?

...MY FATHER OFTEN TRIED TO MAKE HIMSELF TALLER.


...I THINK YOU MAY HAVE THE WRONG IDEA...
UH...
LAYOFFS
BANKRUPTCY
DEBTS
IOU
WHENEVER HE FELL ON HARD TIMES, FATHER WOULD ALWAYS TRY TO GROW TALLER.

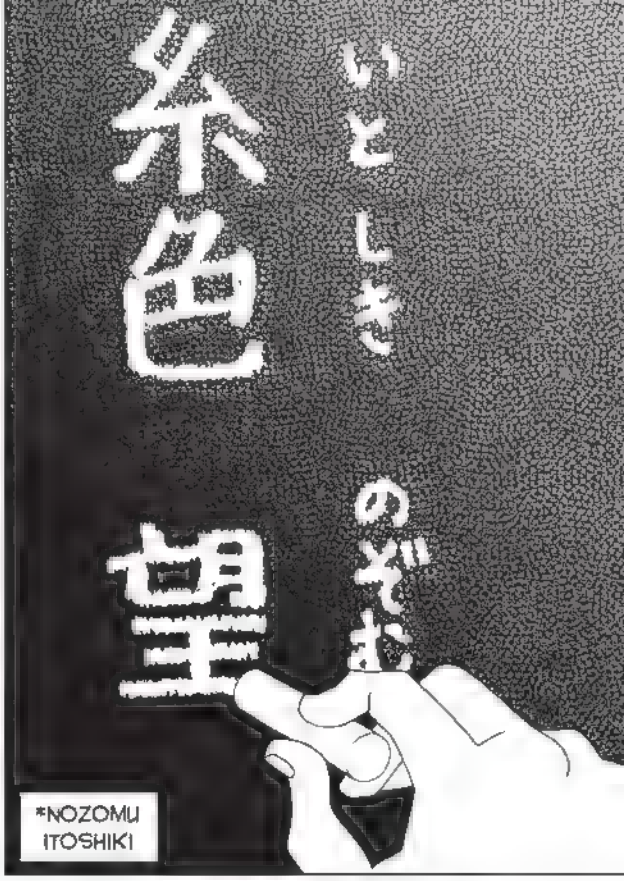

THE DENSE FORESTS AROUND MT. FUJI... YOU CALL THAT A PLACE FOR GETTING TALL?
SO, WHAT'S YOUR OPINION, ANYHOW?
TIME TO GET TALLER!
SWARM
SWARM

AT TIMES, EVEN MOTHER WOULD TRY TO GROW TALLER.
ENOUGH ALREADY!!

THE MAN... WHO LOOKS AT EVERY-THING NEGATIVELY.
THE GIRL... WHO LOOKS AT EVERYTHING POSITIVELY.
さーっ
SHAAAA
BUT Y'KNOW, PINK BRANCH BOSS, YOU AREN'T SHORT AT ALL.
THAT'S WHY I WASN'T TRYING TO GROW...
THE TWO—WHO SHOULD NOT HAVE MET—MEET.
ざわ-ざわ
GAB-GAB
キーン
DING DONG
WHAT A STRANGE MAN.
だっ
DASH
I MEAN IT! I WAS TRYING TO KILL MYSELF!

カラ
SHFF
IT'S THE GUY FROM THIS MORNING!
OH!
CLASS ROSTER
YOU'RE THE GIRL FROM THIS MORNING...
GAH!
PINK BRANCH BOSS!!
I'M NOT PINK BRANCH BOSS!
WHAT'S THAT?
"PINK BRANCH BOSS"?
ざわ MRMR
ざわ MRMR
FWIK
カッ
I'M YOUR NEW TEACHER.

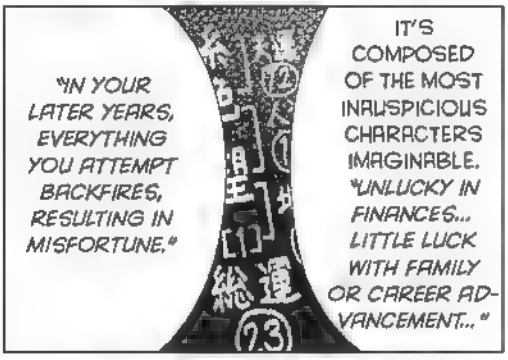
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME.
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI...


いとしき
糸色
のぞむ
望
*NOZOMU ITOSHIKI

...IS THE WORST NAME A HUMAN BEING CAN HAVE.
MY NAME...

.....

HEY! I'VE GOT A GOOD IDEA.
I'VE GOT TO DIE, SO I CAN GET A POSTHUMOUS BUDDHIST NAME WITH DECENT CHARACTER FORMS!


"IN YOUR LATER YEARS, EVERYTHING YOU ATTEMPT BACKFIRES, RESULTING IN MISFORTUNE."
IT'S COMPOSED OF THE MOST INAUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS IMAGINABLE. "UNLUCKY IN FINANCES... LITTLE LUCK WITH FAMILY OR CAREER ADVANCEMENT..."

CHOOSING NAME CHARACTERS IS SUCH A JAPANESE THING. IF YOU'D JUST WRITE YOUR NAME HORIZONTALLY, IT SHOULDN'T BE A BIG DEAL.
H-HORI-ZONTALLY?!

SO, NOW I'M HIRO★ TSUNODA?!
糸色☆望
IF YOU DO THIS, THE CHARACTERS'LL LOOK DIFFERENT, AND YOUR DESTINY WILL CHANGE.

I THINK IT'S A PAIN WHEN PEN NAMES AND TITLES HAVE AN "@" IN THEM!
糸色@望
OR WE CAN TRY MODERNIZING IT BY USING AN "@."

絶望七月

DON'T WRITE THE CHARAC-TERS CLOSE TOGETHER LIKE THAT!
MR. DESPAIR !!

ZETSUBOU... BUT THAT MEANS "DESPAIR"...

THE TEACHER DIDN'T COME BACK TO CLASS FOR THE WHOLE DAY.

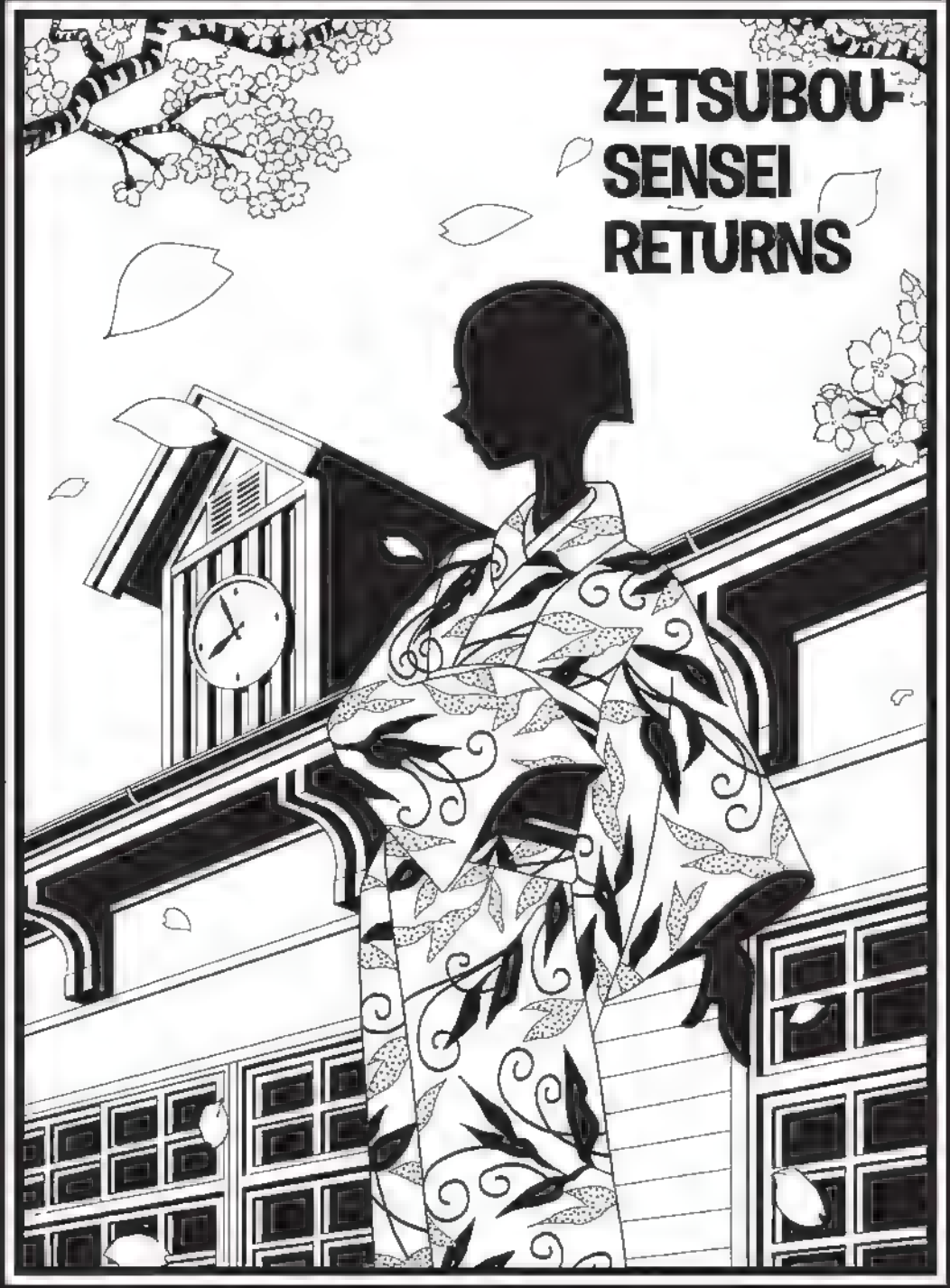
S-SENSEI!
わあああ
WAAAHH
YOU'VE FOUND OUT MY SECRET!

I THINK YOU'RE TRYING TOO HARD TO PLEASE.
AFTER THAT, WHEN ANYONE WROTE THE TEACHER'S NAME, THEY MADE SURE TO PUT PLENTY OF SPACE BETWEEN THE CHARACTERS.
糸
色
望

YEAH, SENSI-TIVE...
OUR TEACHER'S PRETTY SENSITIVE FOR A GROWN-UP.

ATTENDANCE LIST
CLASS 2-F

HOMEROOM TEACHER
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI
SUPER-NEGATIVE MAN

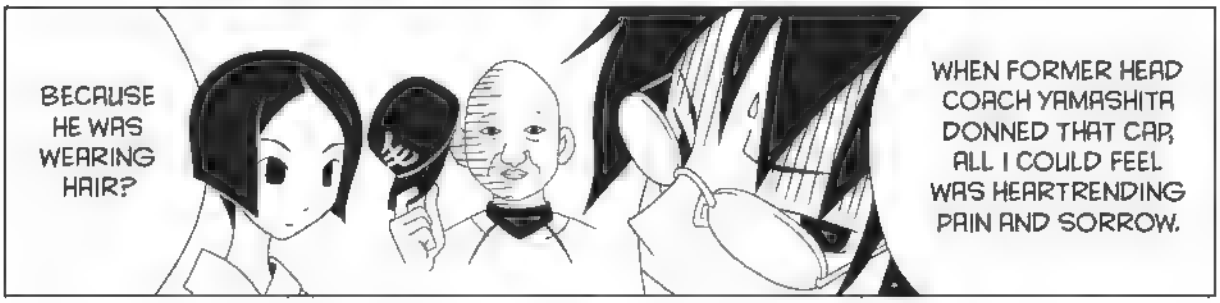


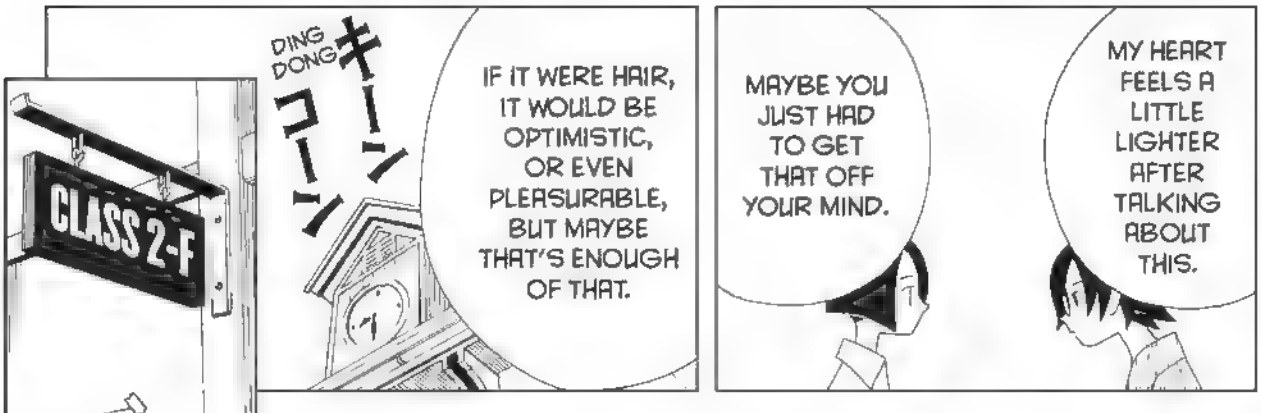
CHAPTER 2

SCHOOL COUNSELOR
CHIE ARAI
I'M A HUMAN BEING WITH NO REASON TO BE ALIVE.
EXCUSE ME, SENSEI.
THIS COUNSELING ROOM IS INTENDED FOR STUDENTS...
I'VE LED A LIFE FULL OF DISGRACE.
BUT... I'LL LISTEN TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.
SO...
...WHY DID YOU WANT TO COMMIT SUICIDE TODAY?
FOR STAFF ONLY
"TODAY, I'LL ENJOY SOME PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL."
I DECIDED TO ROOT FOR THE NEW TOHOKU BASEBALL TEAM, THE TOHOKU RAKUTEN GOLDEN EAGLES.
I CAN'T EVEN WATCH THE SACRED SPORT OF BASEBALL WITHOUT MY TWISTED PSYCHE RUINING EVERYTHING.
BECAUSE MY HEART IS UNCLEAN.

...I BELIEVE THE DESIGN REPRESENTS AN E WITH WINGS.
UH...
...ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS THE KANJI FOR "HAIR"!
WHEN I SAW THE LOGO ON THE CAP...

...EVEN ANGEL WINGS LOOK LIKE DIRTY HAIR TO ME.
BECAUSE MY HEART AND MY EYES ARE IMPURE...


BECAUSE HE WAS WEARING HAIR?
WHEN FORMER HEAD COACH YAMASHITA DONNED THAT CAP, ALL I COULD FEEL WAS HEARTRENDING PAIN AND SORROW.


CLASS 2-F
DING DONG キーン コーン
IF IT WERE HAIR, IT WOULD BE OPTIMISTIC, OR EVEN PLEASURABLE, BUT MAYBE THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT.
MAYBE YOU JUST HAD TO GET THAT OFF YOUR MIND.
MY HEART FEELS A LITTLE LIGHTER AFTER TALKING ABOUT THIS.

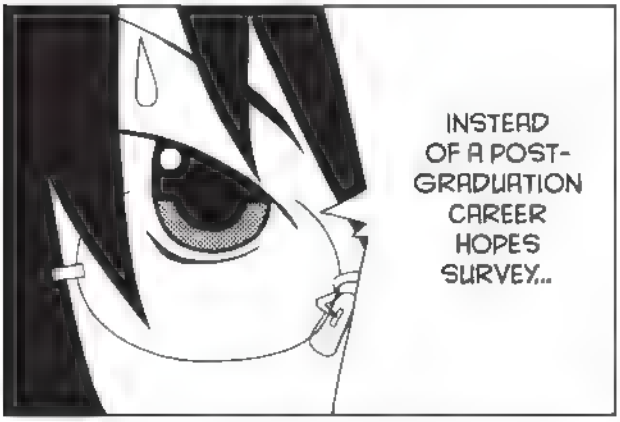
THE CHUO TRAIN STOPPED RUNNING AGAIN TODAY, DIDN'T IT?
GOOD MORNING, CLASS.
NOT THAT THERE'S ANY PROFOUND MEANING IN THAT...
TEACHER, CAN YOU PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THESE TO YOUR CLASS?
SO...A POST-GRADUATION CAREER HOPES SURVEY.
POST-GRADUATION CAREER HOPES SURVEY
CLASS
GRADE
NAME
HOPE 1
HOPE 2
HOPE 3

LOOKS LIKE THEY'D LIKE YOU TO FILL IN YOUR THREE TOP HOPES FOR WHAT YOU WANT TO DO WITH YOUR LIFE. YOUR IDEAL LIFE PATH, AS IT WERE.
I'LL PASS THESE OUT.

HOPE...

HOPE...
LIFE PATH...

THE ONLY THING IN THIS WORLD IS DESPAIR!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS HOPE!


INSTEAD OF A POST-GRADUATION CAREER HOPES SURVEY...

ONCE YOU BECOME HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, YOU NEED TO KNOW YOUR LIMITATIONS.
HOPE DOESN'T EXIST AFTER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL!

WRITE DOWN THREE THINGS YOU CAN NEVER HOPE TO ACHIEVE!
WE'LL DO A POST-GRADUATION CAREER DESPAIR SURVEY!

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS WRITE DOWN YOUR THREE MOST IMPOSSIBLE, HOPELESS FUTURE PATHS, AND RANK THEM FROM MOST HOPELESS TO LEAST HOPELESS (BUT STILL HOPELESS).
UH...WHAT SHOULD WE DO AGAIN...?

NAME Usui
HOPE 1 Tokyo University
HOPE 2 Kyoto University
HOPE 3 Ichihashi University
deadline: April 27

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE PROBABLY THE BEST STUDENT IN THIS CLASS, BUT...
TAKE YOU, FOR EXAMPLE.

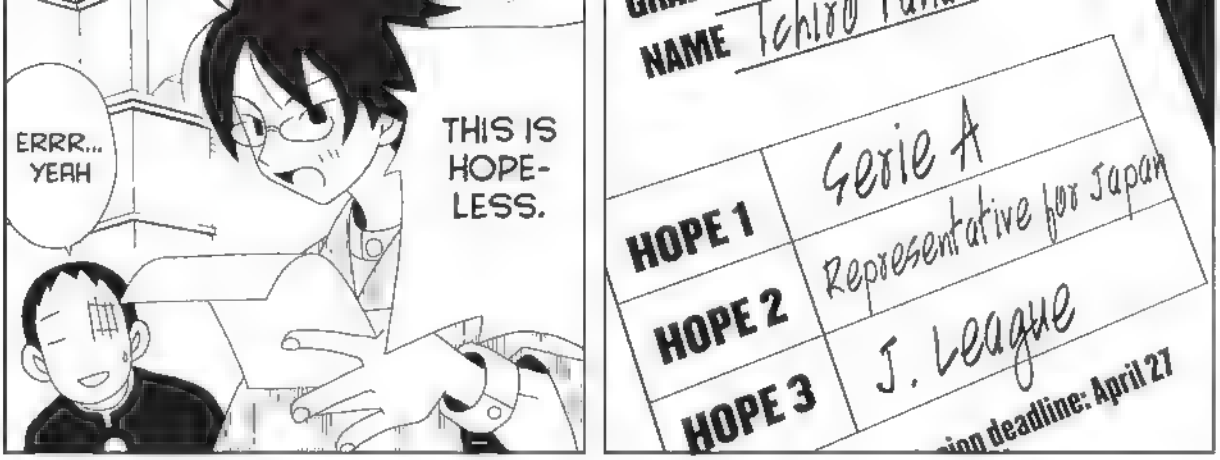
YOU'RE RIGHT, IT IS PRETTY HOPELESS.
YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU CAN ENTER TOKYO UNIVERSITY, THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOL IN JAPAN?

THAT'S MEAN.
THIS IS HOPE-LESS!

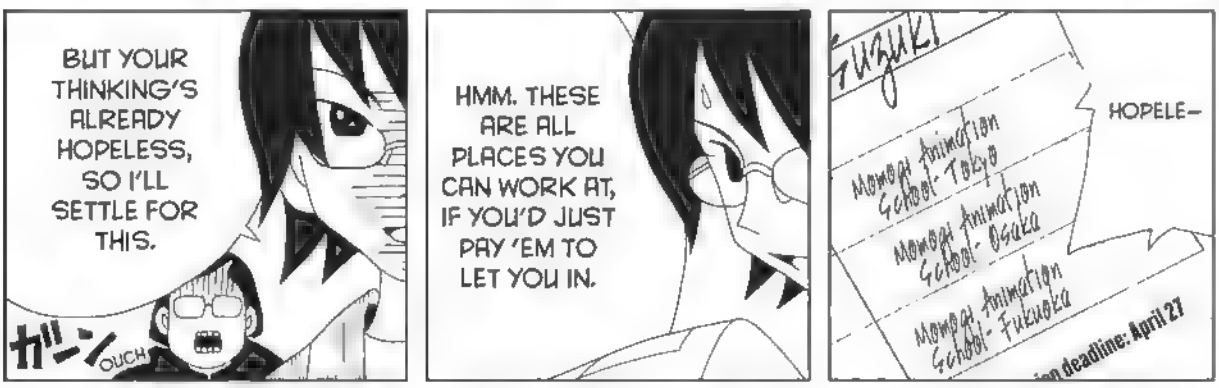
THEN WRITE IT DOWN.
NOT A CHANCE.

...

COULD YOU GET INTO THE J. LEAGUE, JAPAN'S TOP PROFES-SIONAL SOCCER TEAM?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ON THE SOCCER TEAM.


ERRR... YEAH
THIS IS HOPE-LESS.
NAME Ichiro
HOPE 1 Serie A
HOPE 2 Representative for Japan
HOPE 3 J. League
deadline: April 27

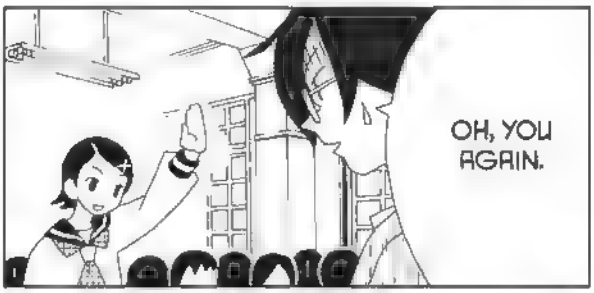
Idol
Actress
AHH, HOPE-LESS!
HOPE-LESS!
Wrestler
K-1 Fighter
Boxer
Musician
Composer
THIS IS HOPE-LESS!
WRITE OF YOUR HOPELESS-NESS.
ALL OF YOU... START WRITING!

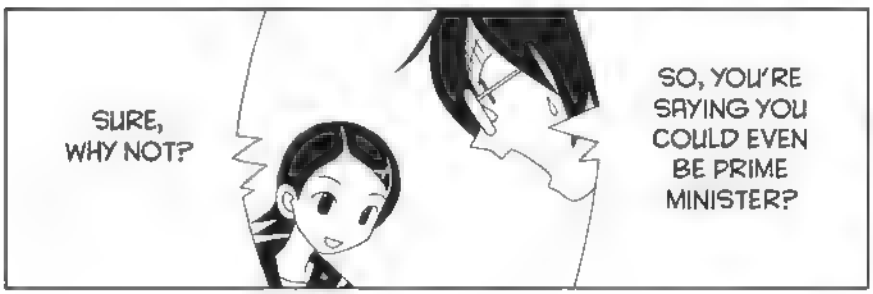

BUT YOUR THINKING'S ALREADY HOPELESS, SO I'LL SETTLE FOR THIS.
ガーン OUCH
HMM. THESE ARE ALL PLACES YOU CAN WORK AT, IF YOU'D JUST PAY 'EM TO LET YOU IN.
Tsuzuki
Manga Animation School - Tokyo
Manga Animation School - Osaka
Manga Animation School - Fukuoka
HOPELE-
deadline: April 27

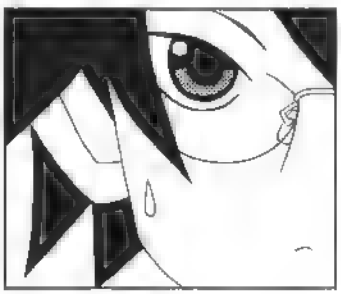
Shogakukan Manga Award
Submission deadline: April 27
Tobacco
Pachinko
Girls
Completed manuscripts
Draft copies
Just the word balloons
Submission deadline: April 27
Irabu
HOPE 1
Major League Revival
Continuation of present role
Retirement ceremony
Love with strawberry panties
Love with girl with huge boobs
Love with someone younger
Gugita
HOPE 1 Celeb
HOPE 2 Cerey
HOPE 3 Segare
Submission deadline: April 27
Jatae
VIP Room
Top rank
POST-GRADUATION CAREER HOPES SURVEY
GRADE CLASS
NAME Zico
HOPE 1 4-4-2 system
HOPE 2 3-5-2 system
HOPE 3 2-3-2-3 system
Fusatsusa
I think 4-5-3-2-1 would be good but what would Zico think?
Submission deadline: April 27
Yoshigumi
Surpass father
Surpass uncle
Surpass older brother
Submission deadline: April 27
BY THE WAY, MY GUESS IS THAT CELEBRITIES WOULD WRITE THINGS LIKE THESE!

AS LONG AS YOU WORK HARD, YOUR DREAMS WILL ALWAYS COME TRUE!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING IN THE WORLD AS HOPELESS-NESS!

IF I TRY HARD, IT'S POSSIBLE.
SO, YOU'RE SAYING YOU CAN GET INTO TOKYO U?

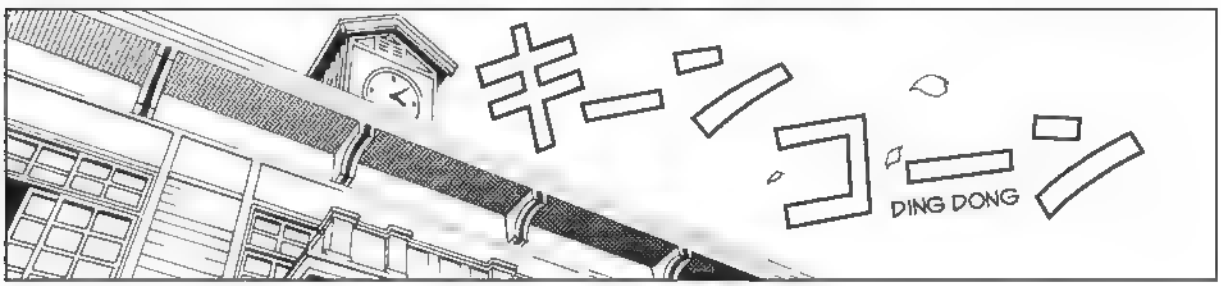

OH, YOU AGAIN.


SURE, WHY NOT?
SO, YOU'RE SAYING YOU COULD EVEN BE PRIME MINISTER?



THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE HOPELESS, EVEN FOR ME.
AWW, GEE... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, SENSEI!

HMM...
ARE YOU HONESTLY TELLING ME THERE'S *NOTHING* YOU CAN'T BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?

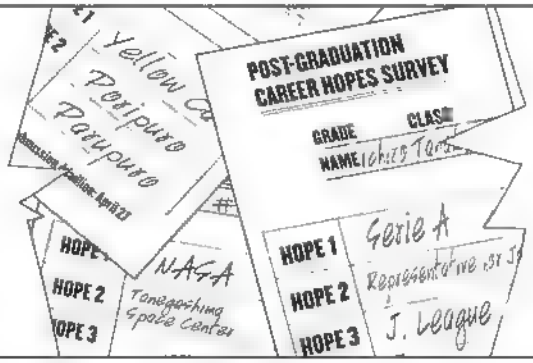

キーンコーン
DING DONG

I'M REFERRING TO THESE SURVEYS.

THIS IS INCREDIBLE, MR. ITOSHIKI.

HUH?

SOCCER CHAMPIONS, ASTRONAUTS, MOVIE STARS... THEY REALLY HAVE DREAMS!!



THE STUDENTS IN YOUR CLASS HAVE HIGH ASPIRATIONS.

BUT THERE'S JUST ONE STUDENT WHO I'M SOMEWHAT CONCERNED ABOUT.

EXCEPT THOSE AREN'T THEIR ASPIRATIONS... THOSE ARE THEIR HOPELESS CASES...

I SEE.

THEY MAY BE A BIT UNREALISTIC, BUT THIS IS HOW YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE.

PLEASE SEE TO IT THAT SHE'S OKAY.

I WAS THINKING I'LL NEED TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER, TOO.

GOD?! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN...

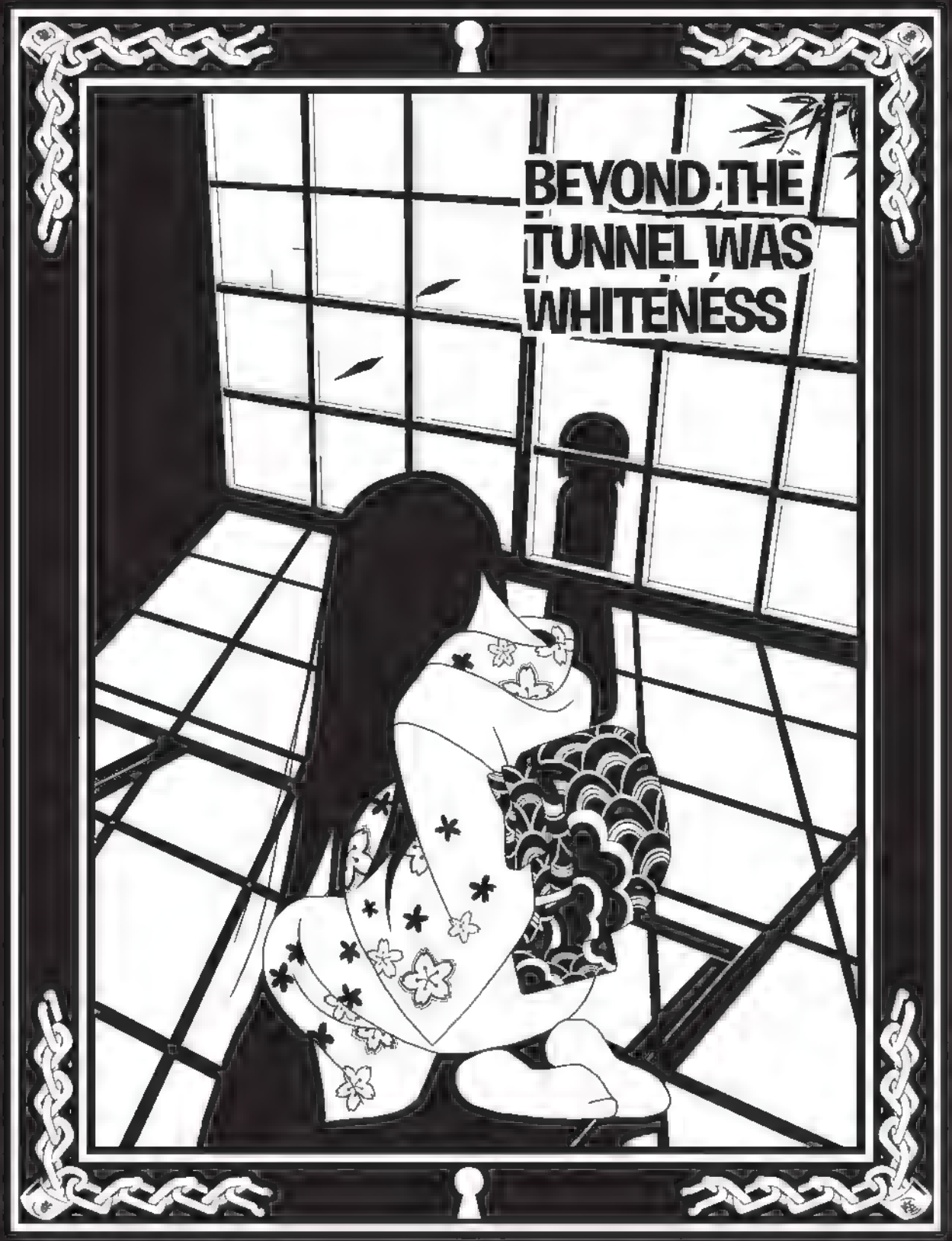
WHAT'S PLANET POROROCAP

ATTENDANCE LIST
CLASS 2-F

ATTENDANCE NO. 15

KAFUKA FURA (P.N.)

SUPER-POSITIVE GIRL



CHAPTER 3

PLEASE... LET ME DIE!!
どーん
SHOVE
WATCH OUT!!
PANT PANT
はぁはぁ
YIKES!
くるっ
FLIP
WHAT IF I HAD DIED?

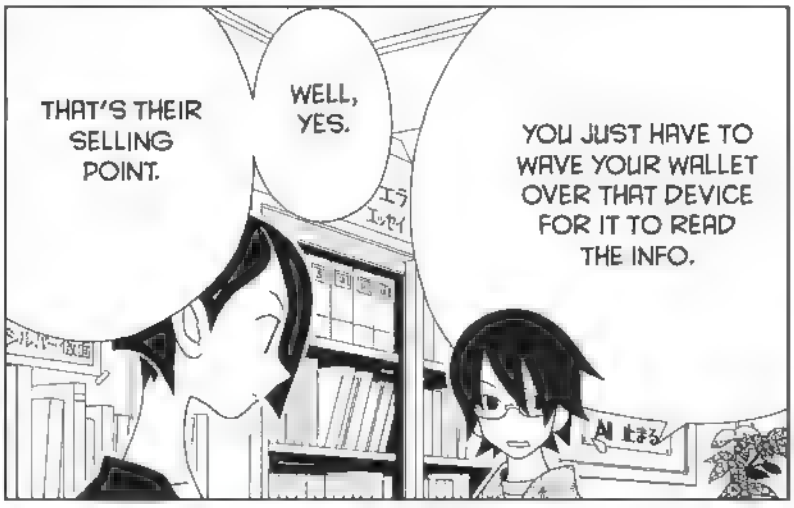
...WHY DID YOU WANT TO COMMIT SUICIDE THIS MORNING?
SO...
...ARE GOING TO BE SWIPED OUT OF MY ACCOUNT...
ALL OF MY SAVINGS...
PLEASE EXPLAIN YOURSELF IN DETAIL.
A COUNTERFEIT CARD?
...WITH A COUNTERFEIT CARD!!

BEEP

IT HAPPENED THIS MORNING...

PLEASE INSERT CARD
PRINT CARD

SO ALL THE OTHER CARDS IN MY WALLET...
CASH CARD


THAT'S THEIR SELLING POINT.
WELL, YES.
YOU JUST HAVE TO WAVE YOUR WALLET OVER THAT DEVICE FOR IT TO READ THE INFO.

COUNTERFEIT CARD READERS WERE IMPLANTED IN THOSE MACHINES BY A GANG OF CRIMINALS!

...COULD HAVE BEEN READ BY THAT DEVICE AS WELL!

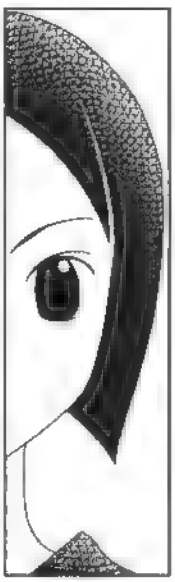
I'D BE ABLE TO MAKE TENS OF THOUSAND'S OF YEN EVERY DAY WITHOUT WORKING, BY GETTING AHOLD OF PEOPLE'S CASH-CARD DATA.
IF I HAD AN EVIL MIND, I'D RIG A SKIMMING DEVICE MYSELF.
YUKA HASHIMOTO
ATSUKO KUROSU
RIKA WANASE
CLICKETY CLACK

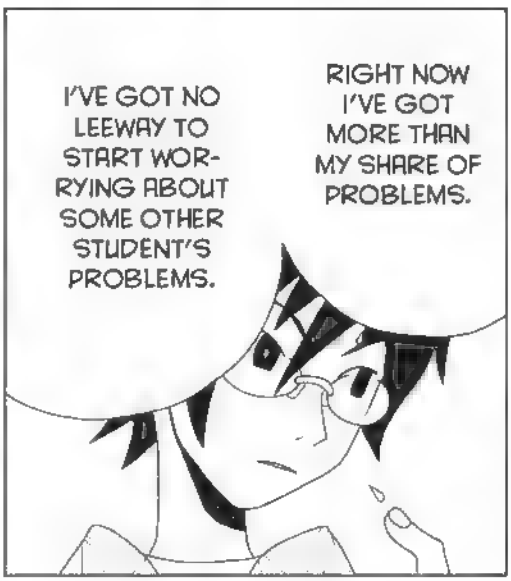
YOU SHOULDN'T THINK OF THE WORST POSSIBLE OUT-COME TO EVERY SITUATION.
THAT ISN'T HAPPENING.
IT'S ALL OVER! BY NOW, ALL MY MONEY'S BEEN DRAWN OUT!

A HIKIKOMORI? A SHUT-IN?
COULD YOU PLEASE VISIT HER AT HOME TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING?

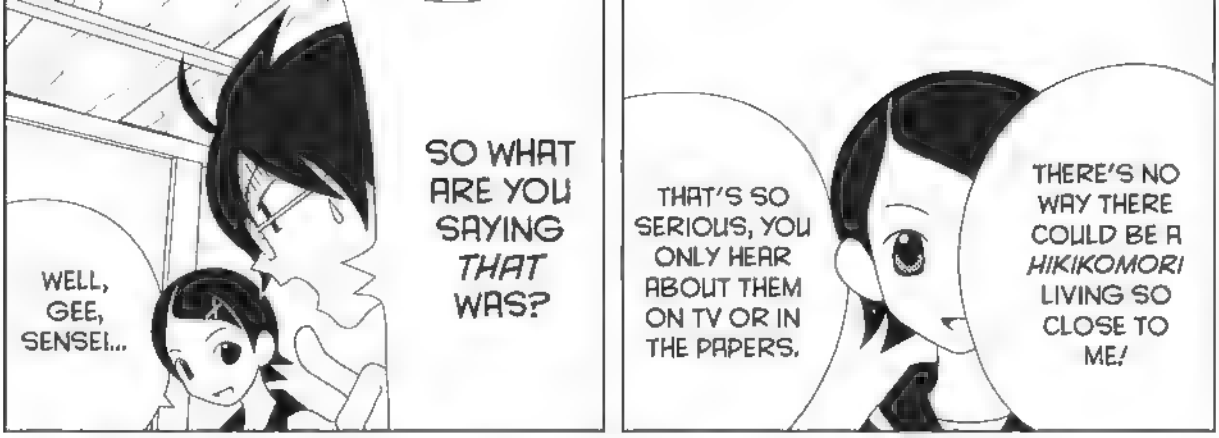
IT SEEMS SHE'S A HIKIKOMORI.
LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE...THERE'S A STUDENT IN YOUR CLASS WHO HASN'T ATTENDED SCHOOL SINCE FIRST YEAR.

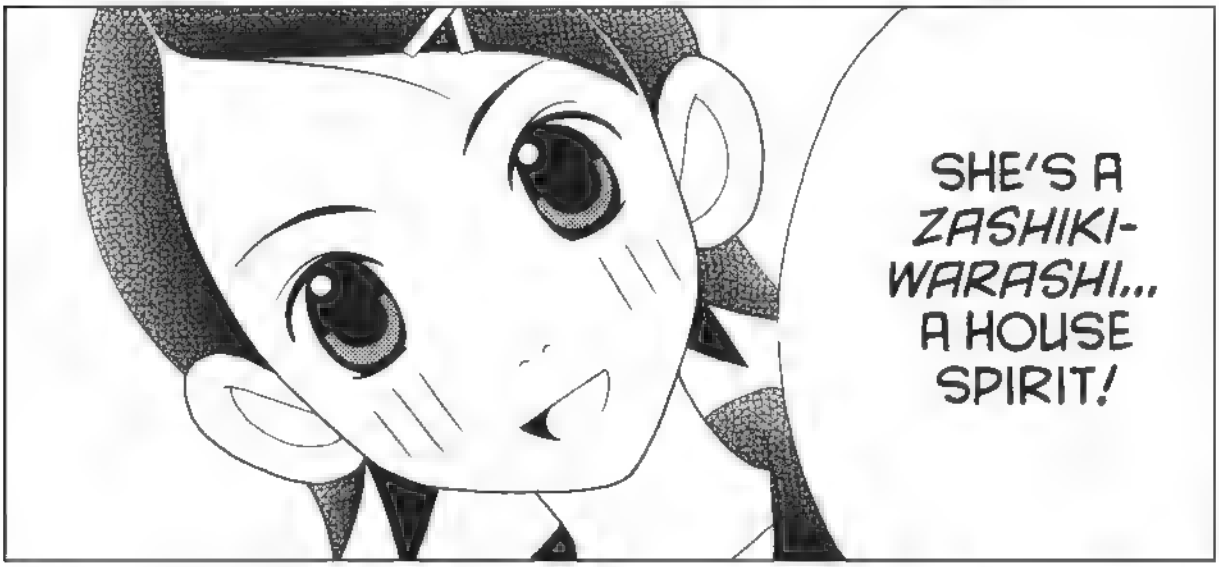
WELL...
...ALL RIGHT ALREADY. I'LL GO. ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GO, RIGHT?




I'VE GOT NO LEEWAY TO START WOR-RYING ABOUT SOME OTHER STUDENT'S PROBLEMS.
RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT MORE THAN MY SHARE OF PROBLEMS.

IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF CHIE-SENSEI'S INTIMIDATING EYES...
HMM...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
GAH!
HEY! ITOSHIKI-SENSEI!
I'VE GOT TO VISIT A STUDENT.
BUT WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, TEACHER?
I LIVE RIGHT NEARBY.
YOUR TEACHER'S COME TO VISIT YOU.
WILL YOU GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF?!
KLANK
DON'T COME IN!
GO AWAY!
KLANK
HIKIKOMORI...
THIS IS AN EXTREME CASE OF HIKIKOMORI SYNDROME...


WELL, GEE, SENSEI...
SO WHAT ARE YOU SAYING *THAT* WAS?
THAT'S SO SERIOUS, YOU ONLY HEAR ABOUT THEM ON TV OR IN THE PAPERS.
THERE'S NO WAY THERE COULD BE A *HIKIKOMORI* LIVING SO CLOSE TO ME!


SHE'S A *ZASHIKI-WARASHI*... A HOUSE SPIRIT!

HIKIKOMORI X
ZASHIKI-WARASHI
SHE'S NOT A *HIKIKOMORI*! IT'S OBVIOUS THAT SHE'S A *ZASHIKI-WARASHI*! SHE BRINGS GOOD LUCK TO THE WHOLE HOUSE!
EH?

IF THAT'S TRULY THE CASE, ARE YOU SAYING THAT IT'D BE BETTER TO LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE?
THAT'S AN ASTONISHINGLY POSITIVE IDEA...
IF SHE DID, THIS HOUSE WOULD BE RUINED!
SO, ACTUALLY, SHE *SHOULDN'T* GO OUT-SIDE!

トンカンカン
CLANG
CLANG
BANG
BANG
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?!
I'M WITH YOU ON THAT ONE!

WH-WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ALL THAT NOISE?

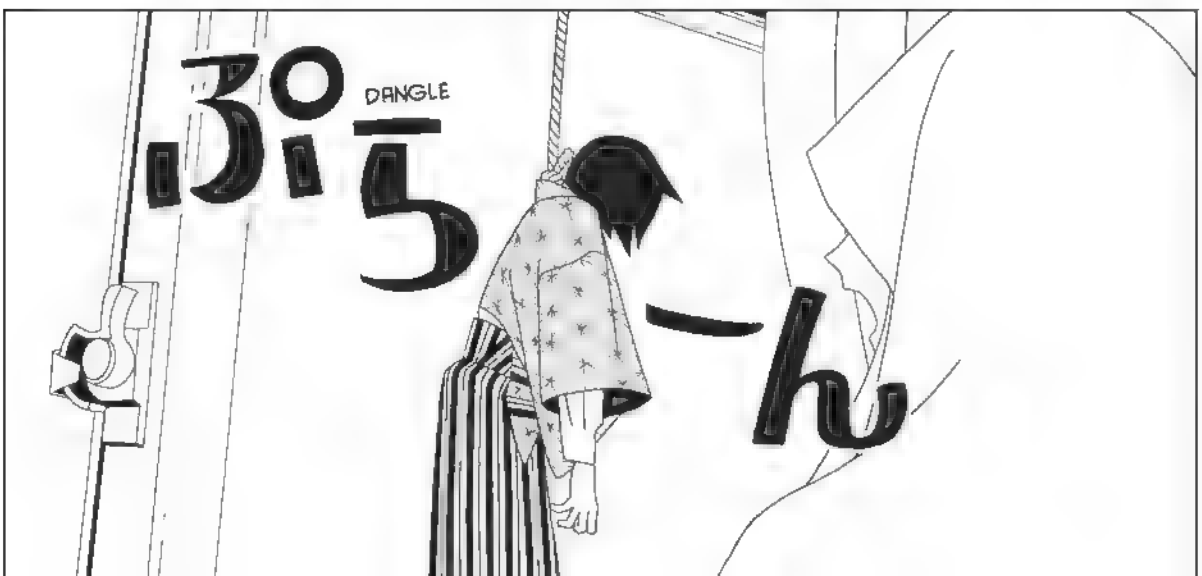
YOU'LL END UP BEING POOR!
MAKE SURE SHE NEVER GETS OUT OF HERE!

WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS?

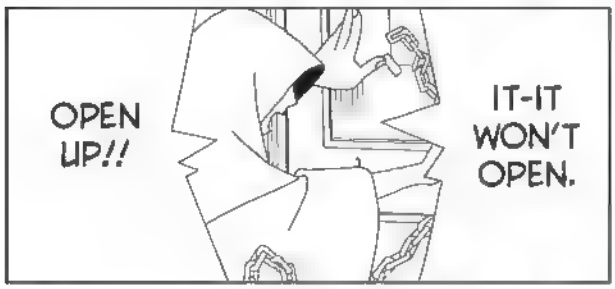
WHAA ?
SENSEI, CHECK THE WINDOWS TO MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T ESCAPE.

WHAT'S GOING ON? IT'S EVEN NOISY OVER HERE...

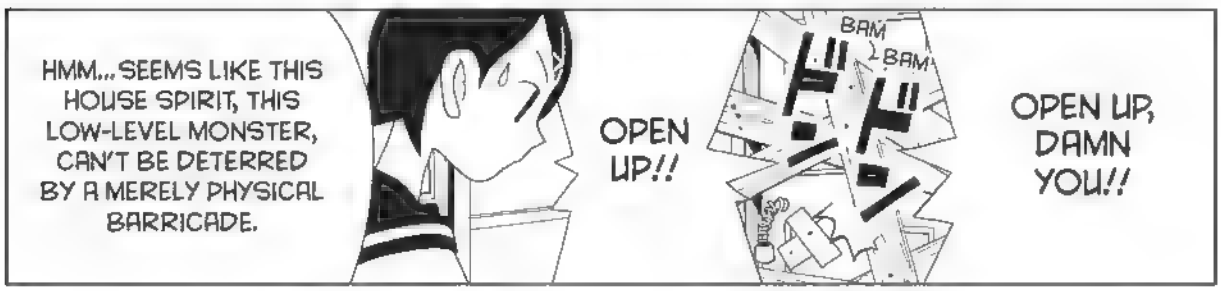
EEK!
ずるっ
SLIP

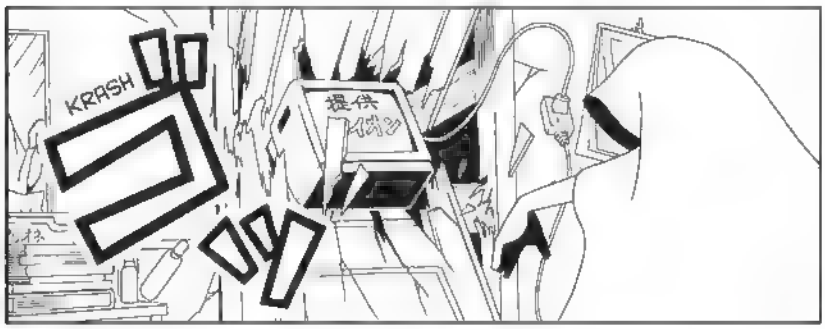

ぶらーん
DANGLE

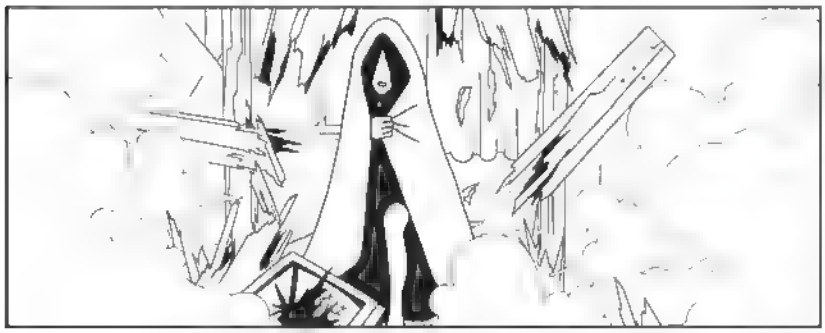
WHAT IF I HAD DIED?!

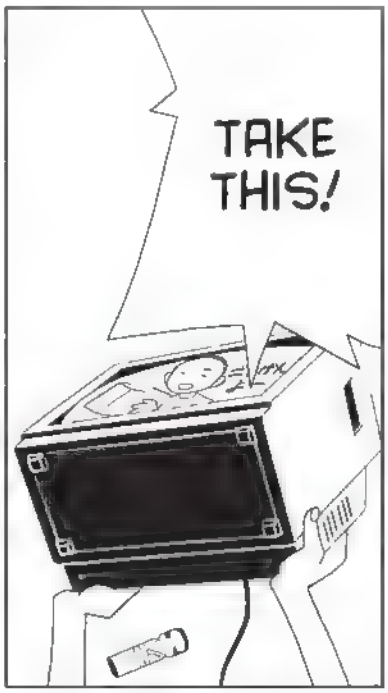

OPEN UP!!
IT-IT WON'T OPEN.

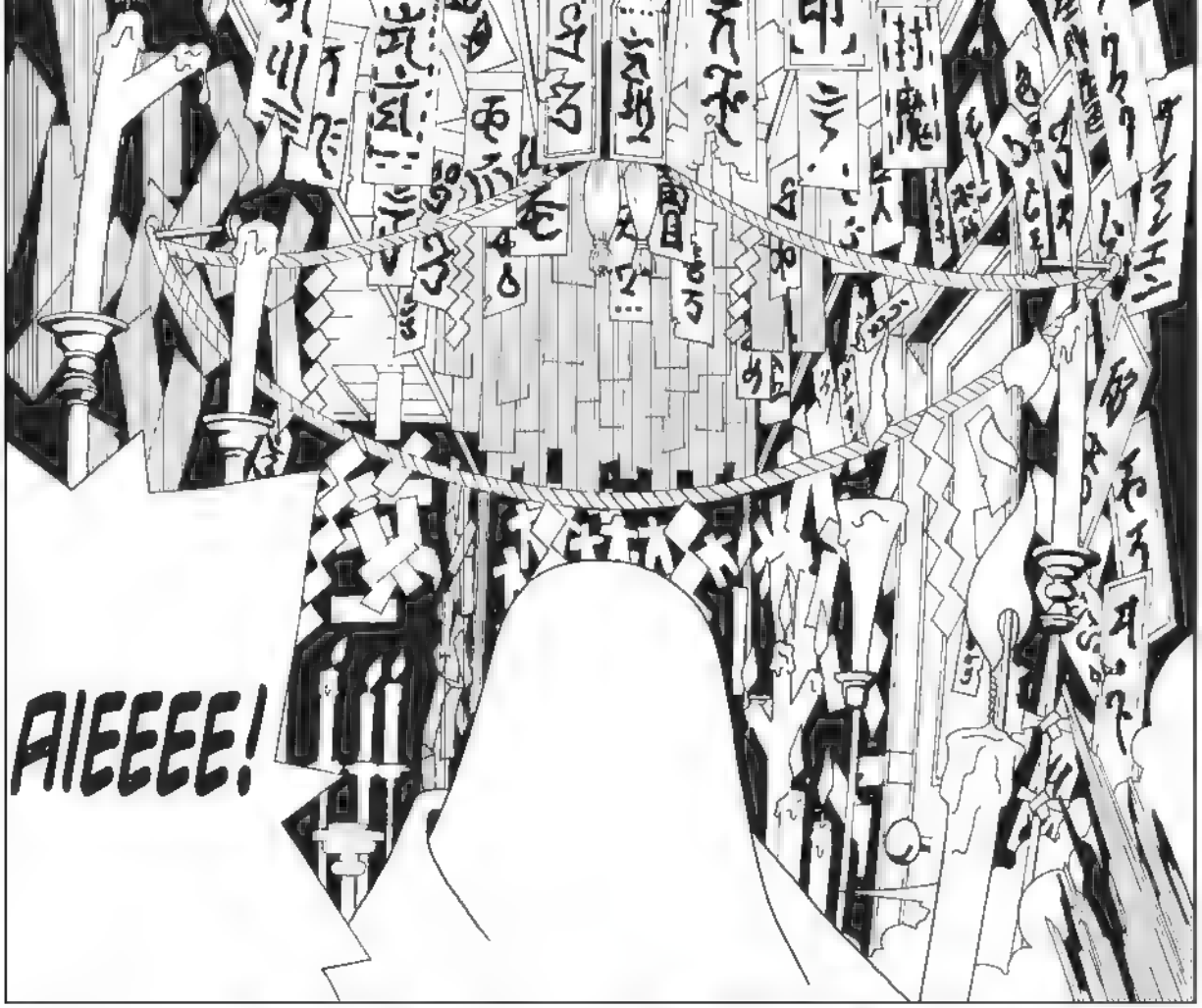
EEEEEK!


HMM... SEEMS LIKE THIS HOUSE SPIRIT, THIS LOW-LEVEL MONSTER, CAN'T BE DETERRED BY A MERELY PHYSICAL BARRICADE.
OPEN UP!!
BAM
BAM
OPEN UP, DAMN YOU!!


KRASH




TAKE THIS!

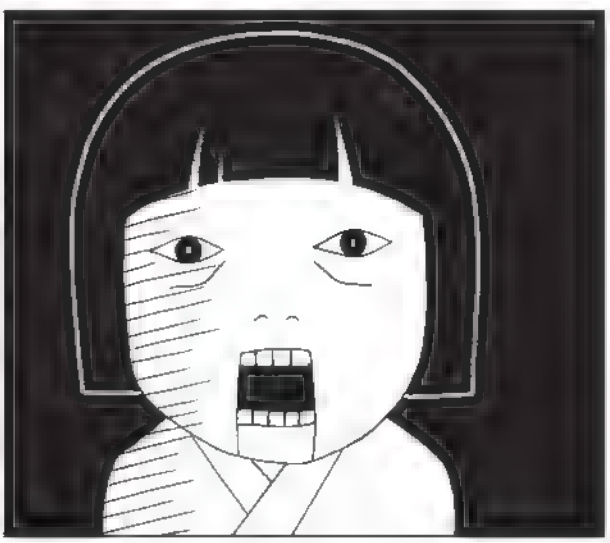

AIEEEE!

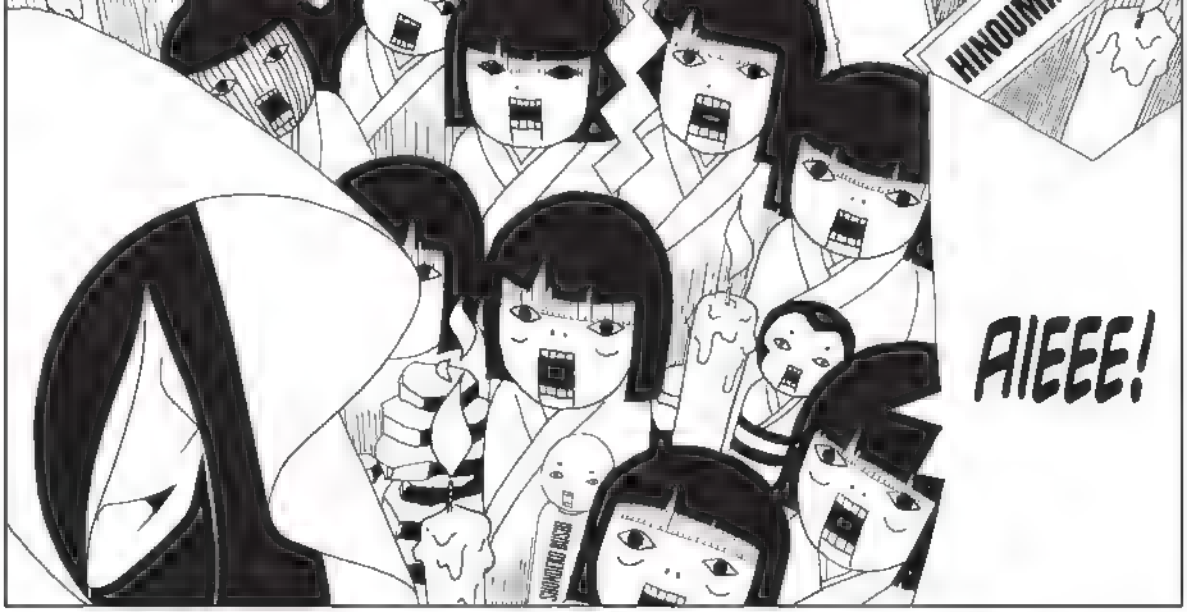
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO PROMISE NOT TO GO OUT.
HERE. THIS IS YOUR FAVORITE TYPE OF DOLL.

KREEK
ひた
ひた
KREEK
WE'VE PUT UP A HIGHLY ADVANCED KEKKAI, A PROTECTIVE WARD, TO KEEP YOU IN PLACE.

IT WILL HAVE LOTS OF OTHER FRIENDS, SO IT SHOULDN'T BE LONELY.

IT'S SCAAARY!



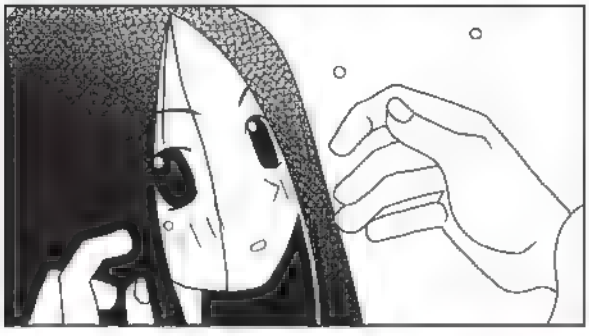

AIEEE!

NOOOOO!!!

SO, MAKE SURE YOU STAY IN YOUR ROOM FOREVER 'N' EVER, OKAY?

PARDON ME.

PLEASE, LET ME GO OUT-SIDE!
SOB すん SOB すん SOB すん SOB
LET ME GO.... LET ME GO OUTSIDE.



AND SO FAIR.
YOU'RE SO LOVELY.

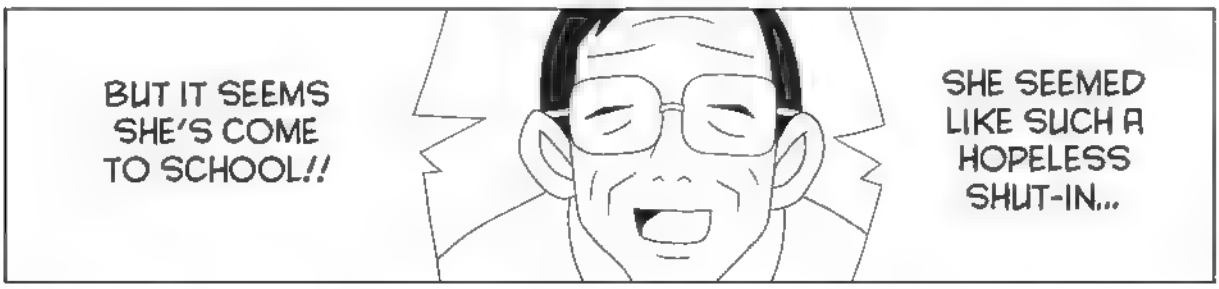
YIPES!
ナムム

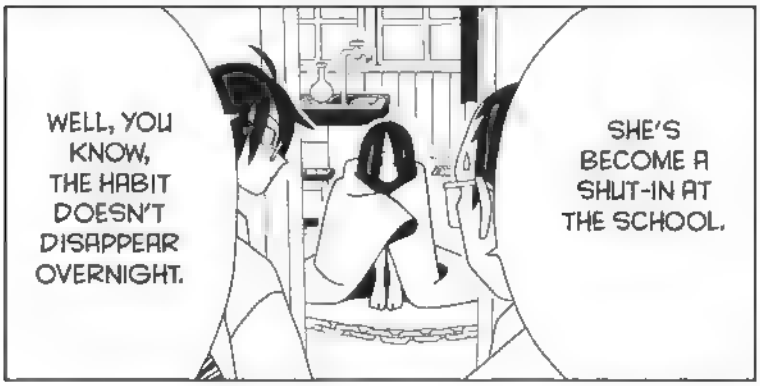
IF YOU EVER WANT TO DIE, MAKE SURE YOU TALK TO ME FIRST.

I'LL PUT HER ON MY DOUBLE SUICIDE LIST.
DOUBLE SUICIDE NOTES

IT'S ABOUT KOMORI, THAT STUDENT IN YOUR CLASS.
WHAT'S THAT?

ITOSHIKI-SENSEI, I'M TRULY AMAZED!
STAFF ROOM
DING DONG
キーンコーン


BUT IT SEEMS SHE'S COME TO SCHOOL!!
SHE SEEMED LIKE SUCH A HOPELESS SHUT-IN...


WELL, YOU KNOW, THE HABIT DOESN'T DISAPPEAR OVERNIGHT.
SHE'S BECOME A SHUT-IN AT THE SCHOOL.

BUT THERE'S ONE PROBLEM.
WHAT?

ATTENDANCE LIST
CLASS 2-F

ATTENDANCE NO. 20

KIRI KOMORI

HIKIKOMORI GIRL

CHAPTER 4

I'M...
...HOPELESS WHEN I FALL IN LOVE.
...I'M GOING TO SEE HIM.
NOW...

WEE-OO WEE-OO
POLICE
POLICE
A STALKER?
キーン コーン
DING DONG
NOW SHE'S GOTTEN CAUGHT BY THE POLICE.
SHE PURSUES HER EX-BOYFRIENDS OBSESSIVELY, MAKES COPIES OF THEIR HOUSE KEYS, AND BREAKS INTO THEIR HOMES.
WHAT'S WITH THE STUDENTS IN OUR CLASS?
AFTER THE *HIKIKOMORI*, WE HAVE A STALKER.

I'M...I'M HOPELESS.
AS IF I'M NOT ENOUGH OF A PROBLEM ON MY OWN.

...AND EMAIL HIM WHILE CALLING HIM ON THE PHONE.
I'D CALL HIM EVERY FIVE MINUTES...

...MY MIND'S ON HIM ALL DAY LONG.
ONCE I FALL IN LOVE WITH A GUY...

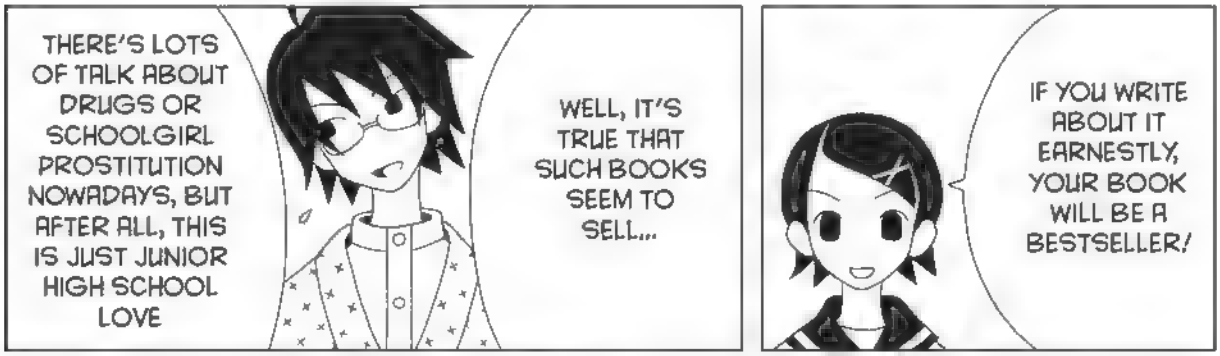
HMM..YOU ARE AN EXTRA-ORDINARY STALKER.
OR I'D GET WORRIED ABOUT HIM WHEN I WASN'T THERE, AND SO I'D BUG HIS ROOM.
I'D SUDDENLY GET THE URGE TO SEE HIM, SO I'D SNEAK INTO HIS HOUSE LATE AT NIGHT.

IT'S NOT STALKING! IT'S TRUE LOVE!

S...
...STALKER?!
AND TELL ME AGAIN WHY YOU'RE HERE?

THERE'S NO WAY THERE COULD BE A STALKER LIVING SO CLOSE TO ME.
BUT...HOW SILLY.

IT'S A KIND OF "DEEP LOVE"!
BUGGING A ROOM IS "TRUE LOVE"?
THAT STRAIGHTFORWARD, PASSIONATE SINGLE-MINDEDNESS DEMONSTRATES THAT THE LOVE IS STRONG.


THERE'S LOTS OF TALK ABOUT DRUGS OR SCHOOLGIRL PROSTITUTION NOWADAYS, BUT AFTER ALL, THIS IS JUST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL LOVE
WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT SUCH BOOKS SEEM TO SELL...
IF YOU WRITE ABOUT IT EARNESTLY, YOUR BOOK WILL BE A BESTSELLER!

...LIKE THE LOVE OF SECTION CHIEF KOSAKU SHIMA!
REAL DEEP LOVE IS...

I'M NOT A STALKER.
THAT'S RIGHT, IT *IS* DEEP LOVE.
MY LOVE'S JUST A LITTLE DEEPER THAN OTHER PEOPLE'S!

THAT'S WHAT DEEP LOVE REALLY MEANS.
THE CLAMMY LOVE OF A MIDDLE-AGED MAN!
?

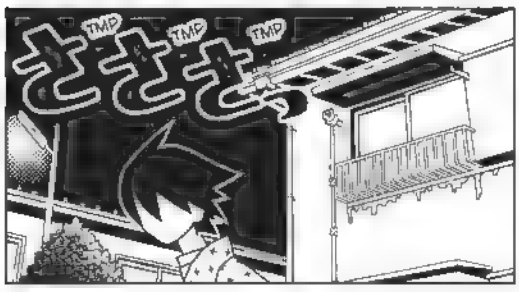
WAIT!
IF YOU BREAK AND ENTER AGAIN, YOU'LL BE ARRESTED!!
I'M WORRIED!!
DASH
I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT HE'S UP TO NOW.
UH-OH. I'M WORRIED!
BUT WE WERE SO IN LOVE.
GET OUT OF HERE! WE'RE NOT GOING OUT ANYMORE!
YIKES!
TAKASHI!
HOW RIDICULOUS!
YOU SAY YOU WERE IN LOVE.
THE ULTIMATE EXPRES-SION OF LOVE...
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT DEEP LOVE IS ALL ABOUT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SAYING?!
IF YOU THINK YOU LOVE SOMEONE SO MUCH...

...IS TO DO A DOUBLE SUICIDE!!

...IS ABOUT FINDING DEATH!
THE PATH OF LOVE...

THE BASIC NINJA
NINJA MOVE
HERE. I'LL LEAVE MY TRAVEL PACK WITH YOU. IT'S SOMETHING I TAKE WITH ME EVERYWHERE.
ゴろん
KATUNK
IF YOU REALLY LOVE SOMEONE, TRY COMMITTING DOUBLE SUICIDE.

...BON VOYAGE!
SO...


TMP
TMP
TMP

IF YOU DON'T MIND HAVING ME AS YOUR PARTNER, I'M READY TO DIE WITH YOU ANYTIME.

HUH?
WELL, I'M OUTTA HERE.
SO INSPIRING...
……
SCAN ぱら
CHIRP CHIRP ちゅん ちゅん
ITOSHIKI-SENSEI, COULD YOU PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THESE?
COUNSELING
PHEW ほっ
THAT'S GOOD. LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NO NEWS ABOUT A DOUBLE SUICIDE.
THESE ARE PHOTOS OF MATOI-SAN OVER THE LAST YEAR.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THEM?
WELL, THERE ARE THESE TYPES OF GIRLS...
...WHO CHANGE THEIR PERSONAS WITH THE GUYS THEY DATE.
SHFF カラ
GOOD MOR-NING...

IS THERE SOME CELEBRATION GOING ON?
WELL, WELL. HOW FASCINATINGLY ELEGANT YOU LOOK.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
TEACHER, DO YOU REALIZE THE PREDICAMENT YOU'RE IN?
STARE
じーっ
ちらっ
GLANCE
KLAK
カツ
KLAK
カツ
KLAK
カツ

じー
STARE
ちら
GLANCE
KLAK KLAK
カッ カッ
SHE'S BEEN STARING AT ME FOR A WHILE NOW. BUT WHY?
JAZZ CLUB
SHE'S STILL STARING AT ME.
NO, IT CAN'T BE. IT COULDN'T BE...
336
VZZZ
ヴィイ
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
VZZZ
イイン
RINGGG-RINGGGG CLICK RINGGG-RINGGG CLICK
CLICK
RING RINNGG
YIKES!
...DEEP LOVE!!!
LOVE MEANS PRES-SURE...!
MATOI
OH, MATOI! YOU HAVE A NEW BOY-FRIEND, DON'T YOU?

NOZOMU ITOSHIKI, TEACHER
DEATH NOTE
Note to Self: Buy Extra Rope!
MASAKI MIYAKE
COPIES OF PHOTOS
YES, MAMA.
WAAH
COPIES OF PHOTOS

SHE HOUNDED ME LIKE CRAZY. AND NOW THERE'S NO WORD FROM HER.
THIS IS WEIRD.

HM MM
しーん。
again

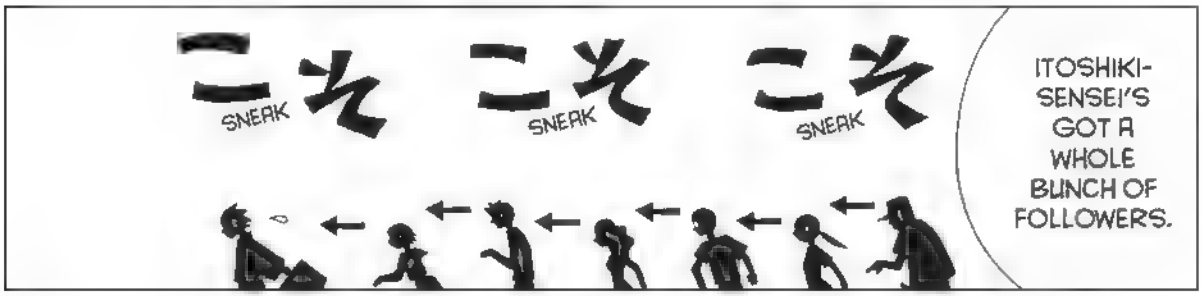
SNEAK SNEAK
こそこそ

FOR HER TO FALL FOR A GUY LIKE THAT...
UP TILL NOW, SHE FOLLOWED ME EVERY-WHERE.

HOW COULD THAT BE...? I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER... I'M WORRIED... I'M WORRIED...

YOU TOLD ME YOU'D BROKEN UP WITH THAT GIRL.
G-G-G
WHAT'S UP WITH TAKASHI? I CAN'T ALLOW THIS!
SNEAK SNEAK
TO THINK YOU'D BEEN GOIN' WITH THAT GUY...
G-G-G
I SPENT TONS OF MONEY ON YOU IN ALL THOSE STORES WE WENT TO.
SNEAK SNEAK
...TO GO OUT WITH THAT SLUT...
G-G-G
YOU DUMPED ME...
SNEAK SNEAK
HOW AWFUL.
WHAT'S THAT?
THE MAN WHO ALWAYS WASHES YOUR UNDIES.
G-G-G
IT'S ME, MADAM...
CLEANERS
SNEAK SNEAK

....A CHAIN OF STALKERS.


SNEAK
SNEAK
SNEAK
ITOSHIKI-SENSEI'S GOT A WHOLE BUNCH OF FOLLOWERS.

IT'D BE NICE IF HE'D LEAD ALL THE TROUBLEMAKERS RIGHT OUT OF TOWN, LIKE IN THE STORY.
HAMELIN, HAMELIN!
HE'S THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN!

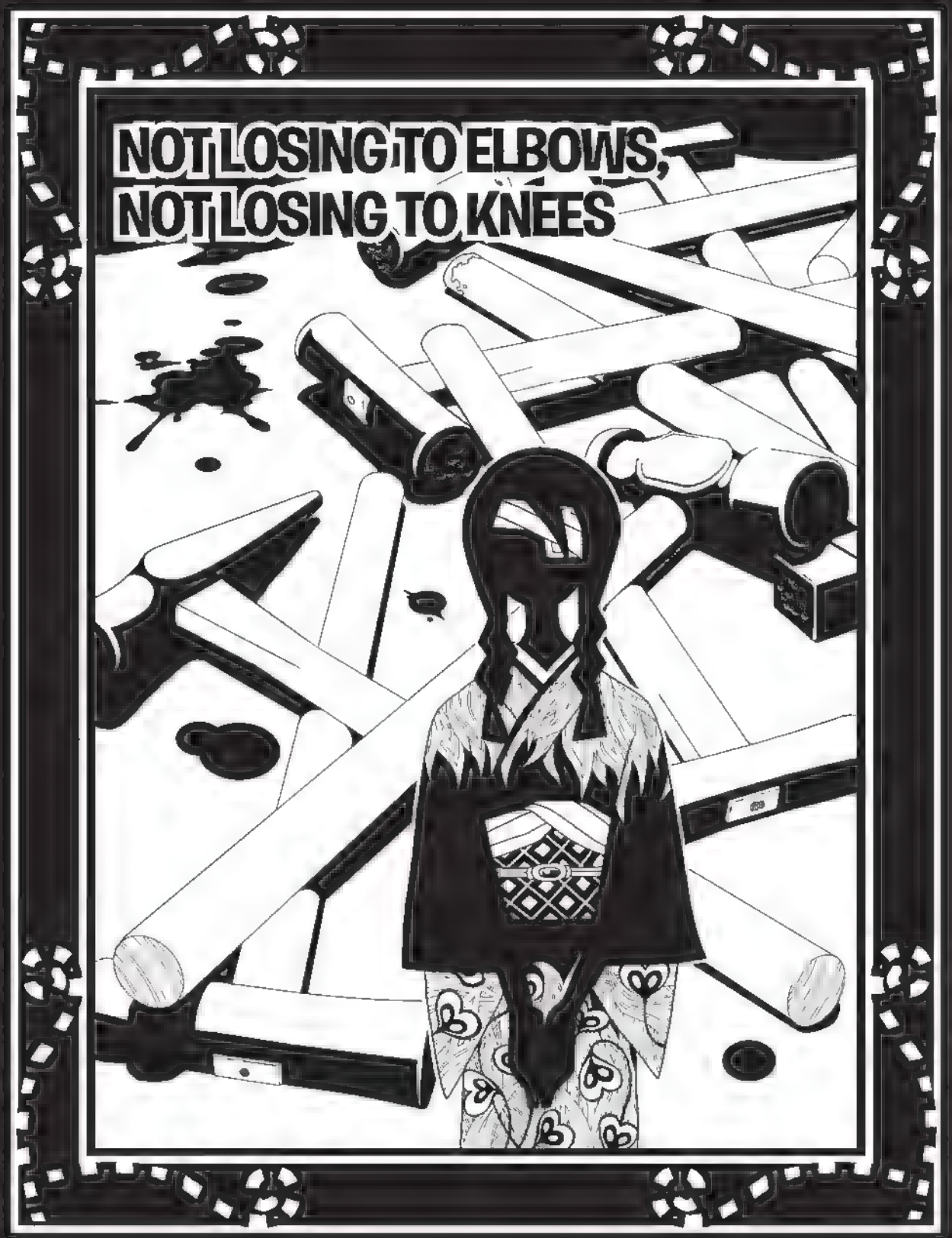
I'D SAY THE NUMBER IS HIGHER, THAT'S FOR SURE.
WELL, WELL, ITOSHIKI-SENSEI! I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT YOUR CLASSES ARE ENJOYED WITH GREAT PASSION BY MORE THAN JUST YOUR STUDENTS.
DING DONG
キーン
コーン

ATTENDANCE LIST
CLASS 2-F

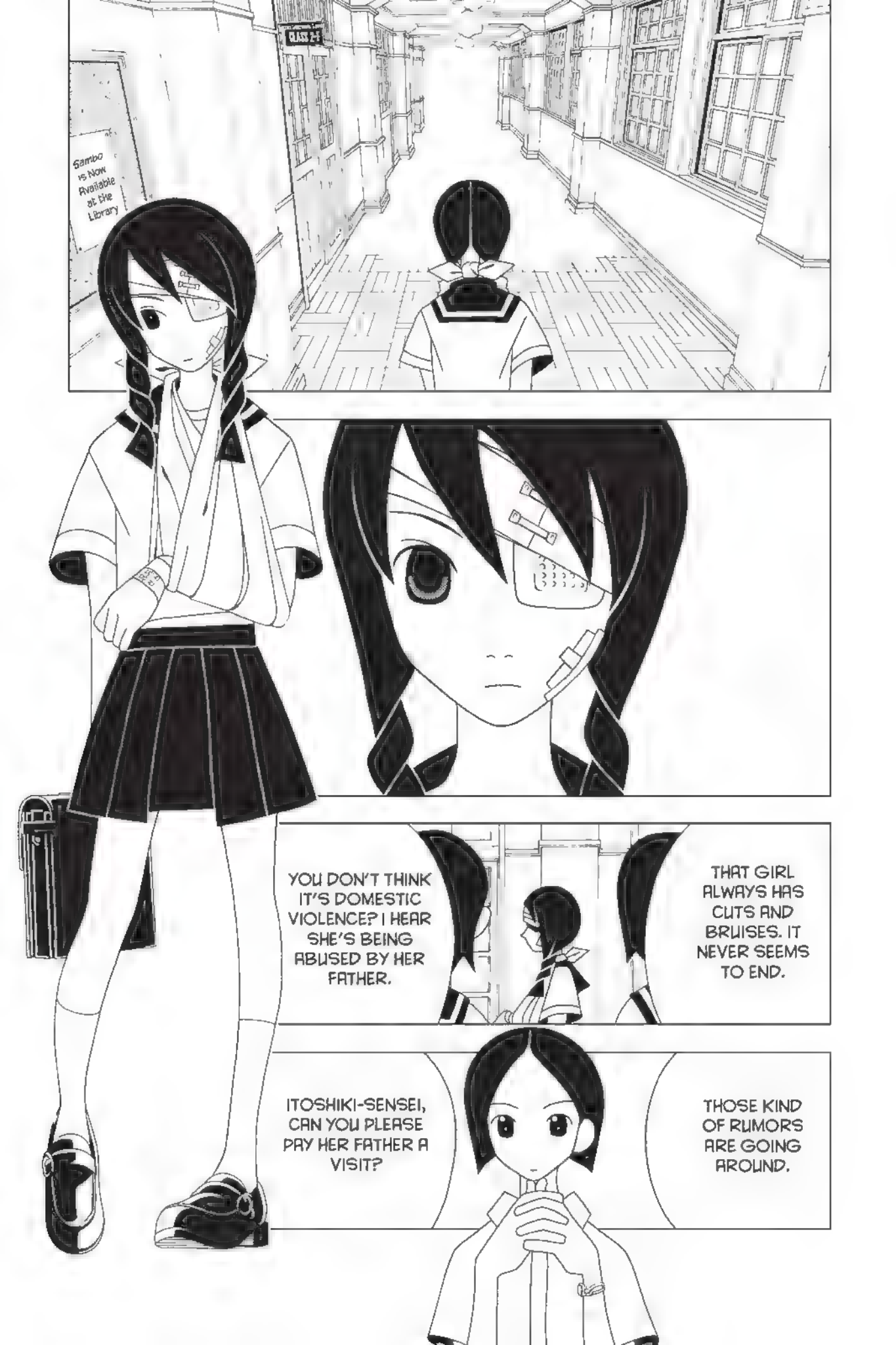
ATTENDANCE NO. 22

MATOI TSUNETSUKI

SUPER-LOVE-OBSESSED STALKER GIRL

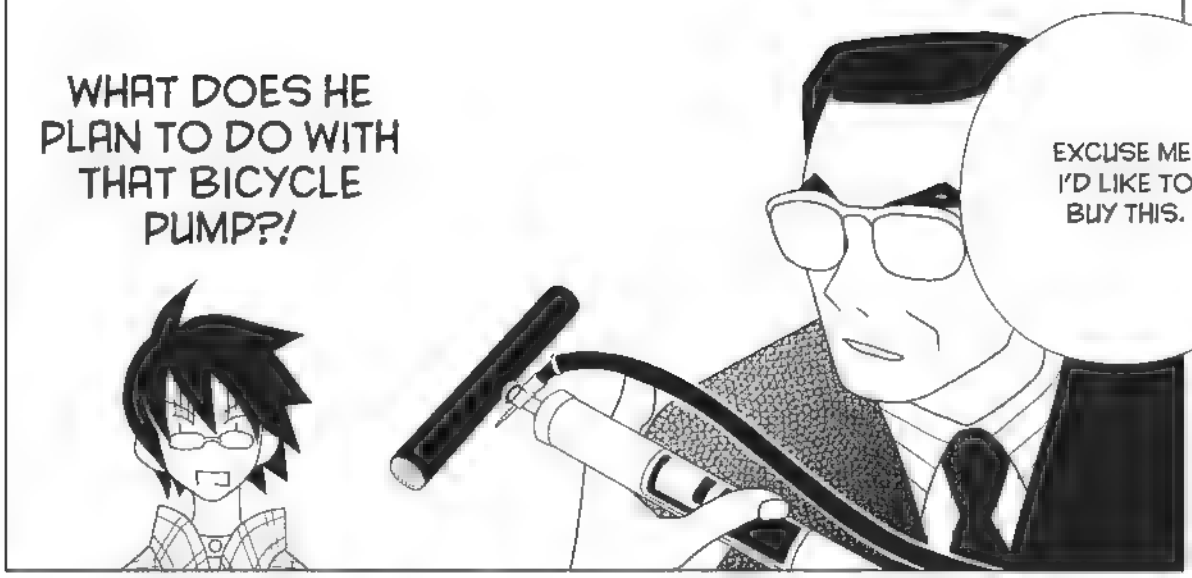


CHAPTER 5


CLASS 2-1
Sambo is Now Available at the Library
YOU DON'T THINK IT'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE? I HEAR SHE'S BEING ABUSED BY HER FATHER.
THAT GIRL ALWAYS HAS CUTS AND BRUISES. IT NEVER SEEMS TO END.
ITOSHIKI-SENSEI, CAN YOU PLEASE PAY HER FATHER A VISIT?
THOSE KIND OF RUMORS ARE GOING AROUND.

三波商店
藤田菓子店
ストアー三平
花
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS...?
LOOKS LIKE THAT'S THE GUY.
HMM. HE'S ENTERING THAT HARDWARE STORE.
HE DOESN'T LOOK AT ALL LIKE THE VIOLENT, ABUSIVE TYPE.
BUT THAT'S OFTEN THE CASE WITH THESE THINGS.
IT CAN'T BE...
EXCUSE ME, I'D LIKE TO BUY THIS.

WITH A FRYING PAN?
PSST
ひそひそ
PSST
EXCUSE ME, SIR!
?
AND JUST WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH THAT FRYING PAN?!
KLANG
HIS OWN DAUGHTER?! WITH A FRYING PAN?!
NOW HE'S ENTERING A BICYCLE SHOP.
NOW GO!
I HAVE NOTHING TO SELL YOU!!


WHAT DOES HE PLAN TO DO WITH THAT BICYCLE PUMP?!
EXCUSE ME, I'D LIKE TO BUY THIS.

PSST
PSST
EXCUSE ME, SIR.

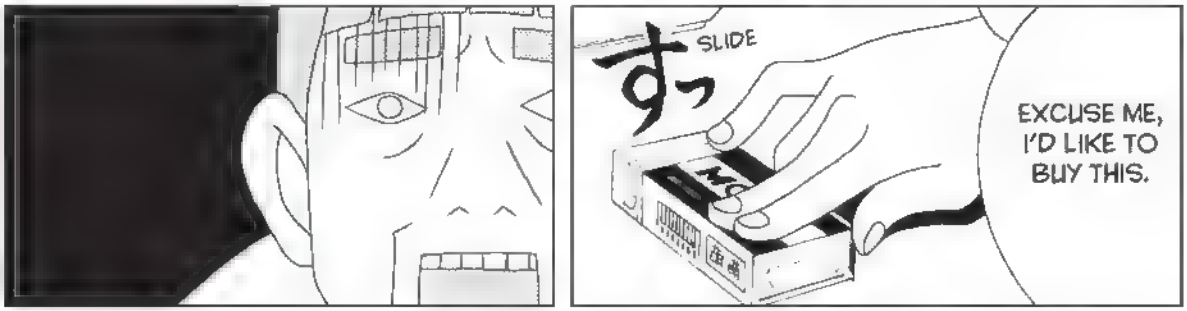
FOOSH
PUMP PUMP
A PUMP... GOOD LORD...

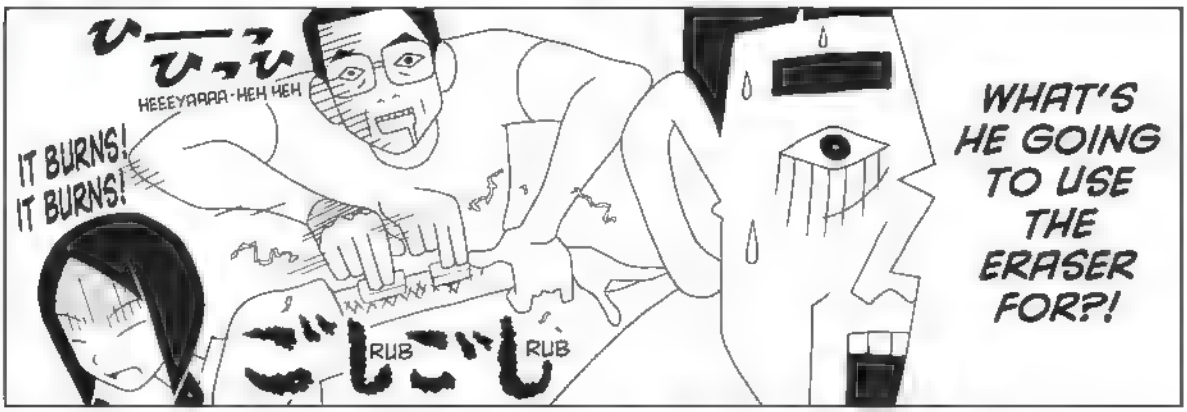
HIS OWN DAUGHTER?! WITH A BICYCLE PUMP?!

I'LL SEND AN EMERGENCY WARNING OUT TO ALL THE OTHER STORE OWNERS THROUGH OUR NETWORK.
HE'S DANGER-OUS.
THANKS FOR HELPING OUT.

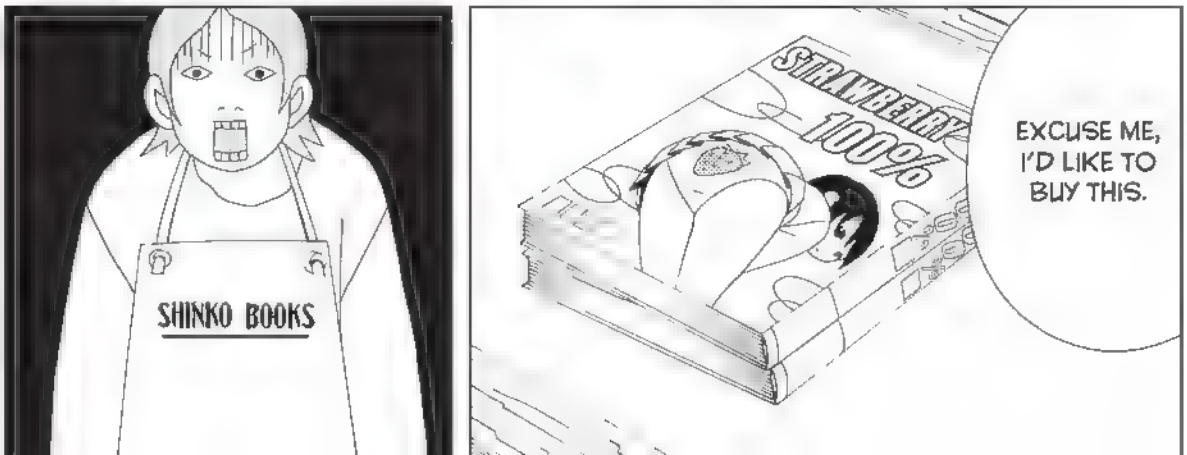
NOW GO!
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL SELL ANYTHING TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU!!

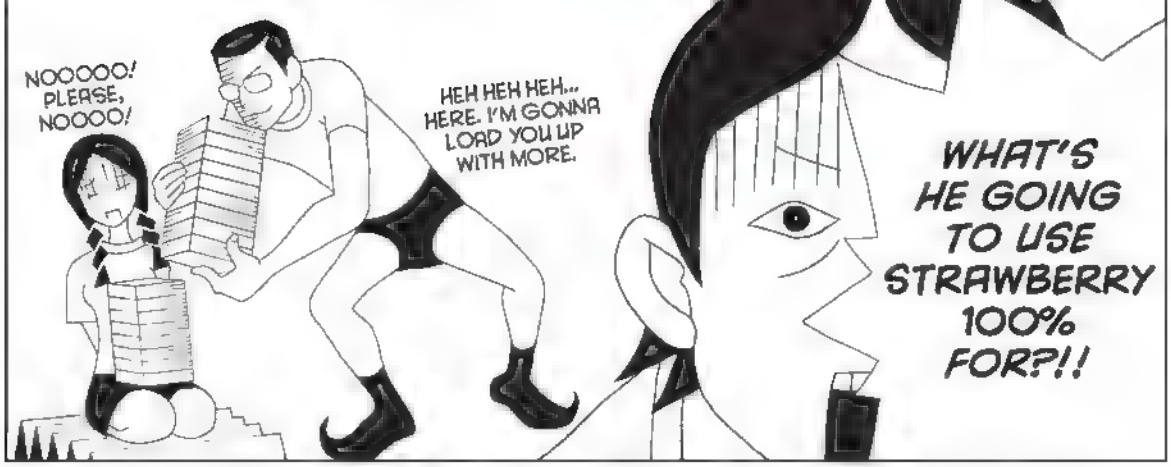
HE'S THE ONE ON THIS NOTICE!
EMERGENCY ALERT!
AGGH!
HE'S NOW GOING INTO A STATIONERY SHOP.


すっ
SLIDE
EXCUSE ME, I'D LIKE TO BUY THIS.


ひーひっひ
HEEEYAAAA-HEH HEH
IT BURNS! IT BURNS!
ごしごし
RUB RUB
WHAT'S HE GOING TO USE THE ERASER FOR?!

シンコ書店
NOW HE'S AT A BOOK-STORE.
GET OUT!


SHINKO BOOKS
STRAWBERRY 100%
EXCUSE ME, I'D LIKE TO BUY THIS.


NOOOOO! PLEASE, NOOOO!
HEH HEH HEH... HERE. I'M GONNA LOAD YOU UP WITH MORE.
WHAT'S HE GOING TO USE STRAWBERRY 100% FOR?!!

...TO USE STRAWBERRY 100% AS A DEADLY WEAPON...
HE'S CERTAINLY NO ORDINARY GUY...

ARGHHHH
ぬあぁあ
GET OUT!!

THEY'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN PERFORM SUCH FEATS.

HE COULDN'T BE A SURVIVOR OF THE SPECIAL MILITARY UNIT, THE DESERT ASSASSINS!

NO...IT CAN'T BE....!

I'VE CREATED A DREADFUL FOE BY ANTAGONIZING HIM!!

?
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

SPECIAL MILITARY UNIT
DESERT ASSASSINS
A LEGENDARY TASK FORCE WHOSE MEMBERS COULD SINGLE-HANDEDLY ANNIHILATE AN ENTIRE PLATOON USING JUST ONE VOLUME OF KIMAGURE ORANGE ROAD.

UH...
EXCUSE ME! I'M OFF!
DASH
I'LL HANDLE THE SCHOOL BY MAKING UP SOME SUITABLE LIES. BUT PLEASE SPARE MY LIFE!
SEEMS SHE FELL IN.
ITOSHIKI-SENSEI! SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, BUT WE'VE GOT A MAJOR PROBLEM! IT'S AT THE ZOO.
がるるる
ROAAAAR
I'LL BE FINE!
SHE'LL BE EATEN!
HOW DID SUCH A THING HAPPEN?
IN IT, THERE'S A NOBLE TALE ABOUT A MAN WHO BECOMES A BUDDHA IN HIS NEXT LIFE BY FEEDING HIMSELF TO A HUNGRY TIGER.
THERE'S A CHAPTER ABOUT "SELF-ABANDONMENT" IN A BUDDHIST BOOK CALLED *THE SUTRA OF GOLDEN RADIANCE.*

IN THE NEXT LIFE, I'LL BE A GOD!
THAT'S WHY IT'S OKAY TO BE EATEN BY A TIGER!
EEEEK!
ぐばっ
キャアア
GRAAA
LINE-BACK!
IT'S NOT A POSITIVE VIEW-POINT!
SHE'S GOT AN UNBELIEVABLY POSITIVE VIEW-POINT... EVEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
PURR
かぷる
COME HERE, LINE-BACK!
ポキ
SNAP
ゴロゴロ
ROLL
ROLL
WHEEEE! WHEEEE!
THERE NOW. YOU'RE A GOOD BOY.
LET ME GUESS... YOU'RE LIKE THIS BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS FROLICKING WITH WILD ANIMALS?
SO IT WASN'T DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AFTER ALL...
TIGER CHOW

...THE EFFECTS OF ANIMAL THERAPY ARE GETTING A LOT OF ATTENTION.
THAT'S TRUE. EVEN IN PSYCHIATRY...
WHEN I'M WITH THEM I FEEL COMFORTED. SO I WORK HERE PART-TIME.
I ADORE ANIMALS.
EXCUSE ME?
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT KYOKO HAMA-GUCHI, RIGHT?
THERE NOW, KYOKO. YOU DID REAL WELL, KYOKO.
ANIMAL THERAPY?
...THE THING I LOVE MOST IS THEIR TAILS.
...TO BE ACCURATE...
WHEN I SAY I LOVE ANIMALS...
SO IN ONE SENSE, AREN'T YOU ABUSING THOSE ANIMALS...?
KICK
KICK
TEE HEE
BUT SOME-TIMES...
WHEN I SEE THOSE LITTLE TUFTS, I CAN'T HELP BUT WANT TO PULL ON 'EM.
SAINT TAIL
PLEASE COME IN, SENSEI. SORRY ABOUT THE MESS.
WHAAA?
ANYHOW, ITOSHIKI-SENSEI...COULD YOU PLEASE VISIT THE GIRL'S HOME AND HAVE A TALK WITH HER FATHER?

NEW

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN! WHY ARE ALL THESE TAILS GROWING OUT OF THE WALLS?!
OH, THAT'S A BLACK-AND-WHITE RUFFED LEMUR.

WHICH ONE?
WH-WHAT IS THIS?

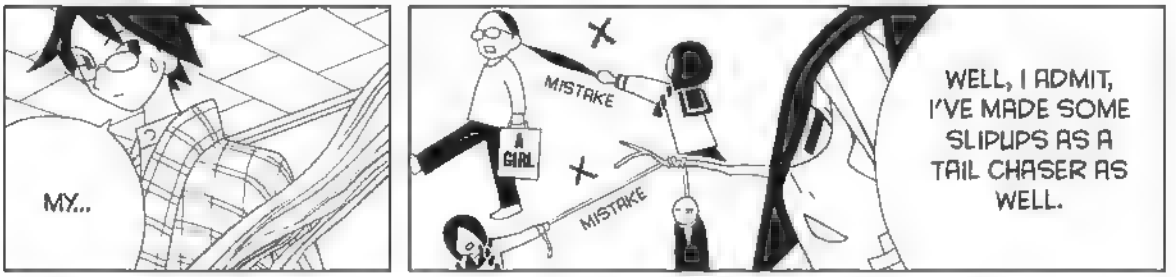
YOU'VE MADE SURE OF THAT, YOU SAY?!
...I'VE MADE SURE OF THAT.
DON'T WORRY. THEY'RE ALL REPLICAS...

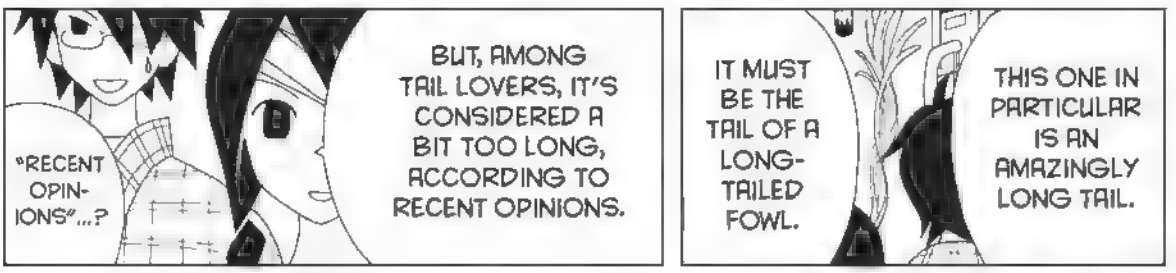
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "TAIL EXPLOITS"...?
I'VE GOT A BIG COLLECTION FROM MY TAIL EXPLOITS.

I'VE SEEN HEADS OF ANIMALS STICKING OUT OF WALLS, BUT...TAILS...?

TAILS OF THE DESERT
TAILS OF THE DEEP SEA
TAILS OF THE FAR NORTH
ONE DAY, I'D LIKE TO TRAVEL SO I CAN PULL ANIMAL TAILS ALL OVER THE WORLD!

TRUE... THAT'S NOTHING TO BRAG ABOUT.
...THERE'S NOT ONE CAT IN THIS TOWN WHOSE TAIL I HAVEN'T PULLED.
I DON'T MEAN TO BRAG, BUT...


MY...
MISTAKE
A GIRL
MISTAKE
WELL, I ADMIT, I'VE MADE SOME SLIPUPS AS A TAIL CHASER AS WELL.


"RECENT OPIN-IONS"...?
BUT, AMONG TAIL LOVERS, IT'S CONSIDERED A BIT TOO LONG, ACCORDING TO RECENT OPINIONS.
IT MUST BE THE TAIL OF A LONG-TAILED FOWL.
THIS ONE IN PARTICULAR IS AN AMAZINGLY LONG TAIL.

OR RATHER, I WONDER WHAT TYPE OF TAIL WOULD SUIT YOU?
♡
TEE-HEE
EH?!
YOU KNOW, SENSEI... I THINK A TAIL WOULD LOOK GOOD ON YOU.
STARE

SHE'S A PERVERT. THAT GIRL'S A PERVERT!
ARGGGH
ぬあ
あぬ
あぬ
履歴書
古紙
休業

AGAIN, ANOTHER TYPE OF PERVERT!
RACCOON EARS
SENSEI! IF YOU'RE WEARING THAT, YOU SHOULD WEAR THESE TOO!

OH MY!
♡
Coco
News

SMOTHER
ねちょ
WHAT DOES HE PLAN TO USE THE SARAN WRAP FOR?

EXCUSE ME, I'D LIKE TO BUY THIS.

My Top 3 Tails for Year 2005
1) Asiatic Chipmunk
2) Bengal Tiger
3) Green Python

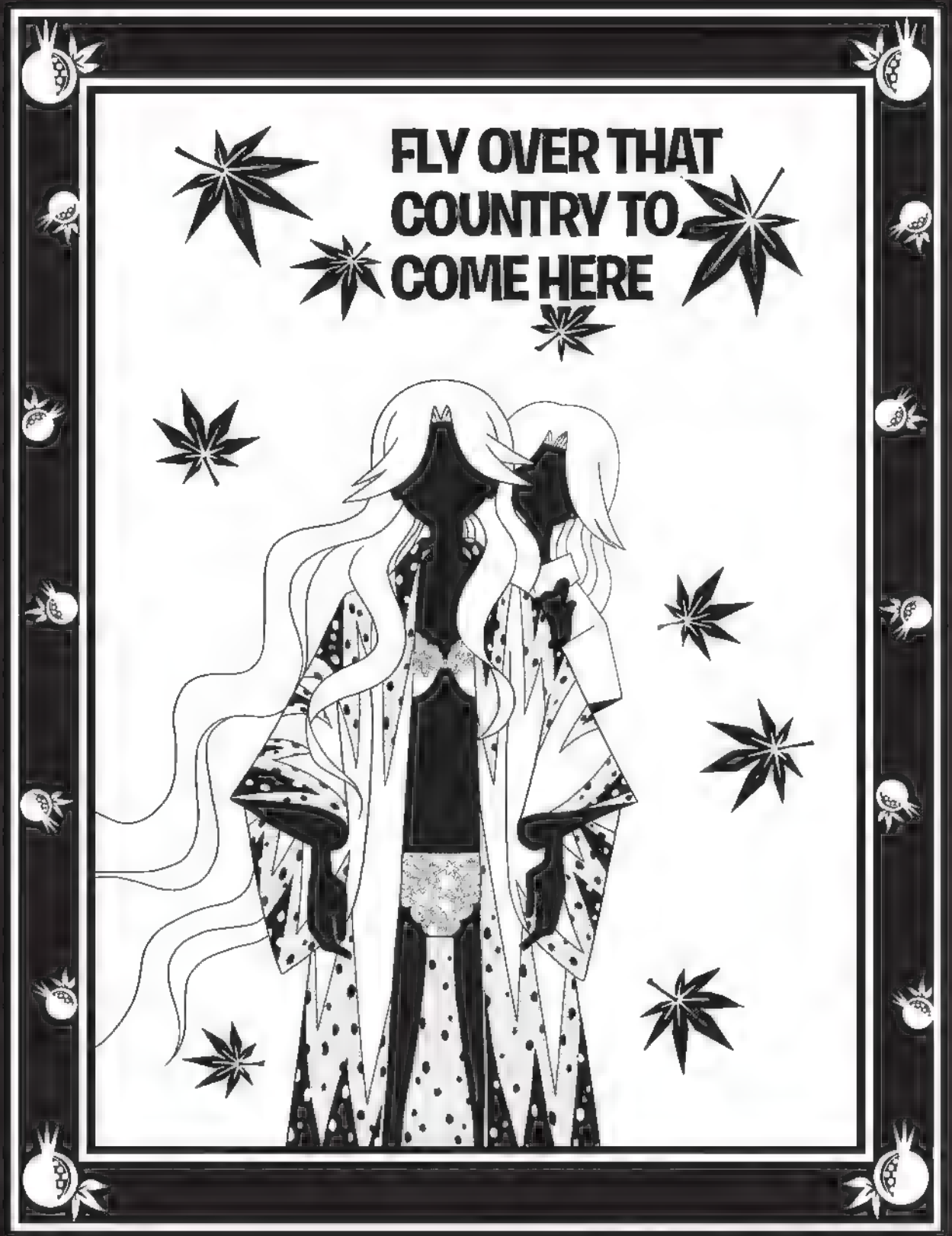
"THE POTATOES WERE POISONED... A POISON THAT'S EFFECTIVE ON TAILS..."
APPARENTLY THIS IS HIS SMALL METHOD OF REVENGE.
TODAY, I'D LIKE TO READ FROM FAITHFUL ELEPHANTS.

ATTENDANCE LIST
CLASS 2-F

ATTENDANCE NO. 19

ABIRU KOBUSHI

HAS TAIL FETISH, THOUGHT TO BE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



CHAPTER 6

THE YOUNG GIRL WHO WAS TALKING ABOUT WATCHING FIRE-WORKS FROM DOWN BELOW, OR FROM THE SIDE...
...IS PRESENTLY WATCHING THEM FROM ABOVE, IN A HELICOPTER.

...BECAUSE I DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING FROM YOU ALL.
STARTING TOMORROW, I'LL START GIVING TESTS, BUT DON'T WORRY.

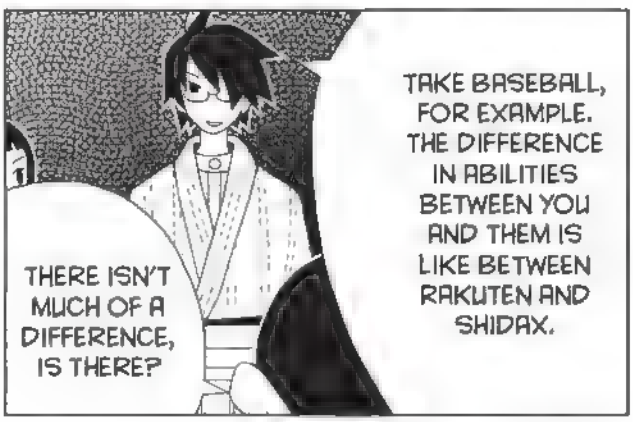
REASON BEING...
NO PROBLEM.
BUT SENSEI...IF WE GET BAD GRADES, WON'T THAT PUT YOU IN AN AWKWARD POSITION?

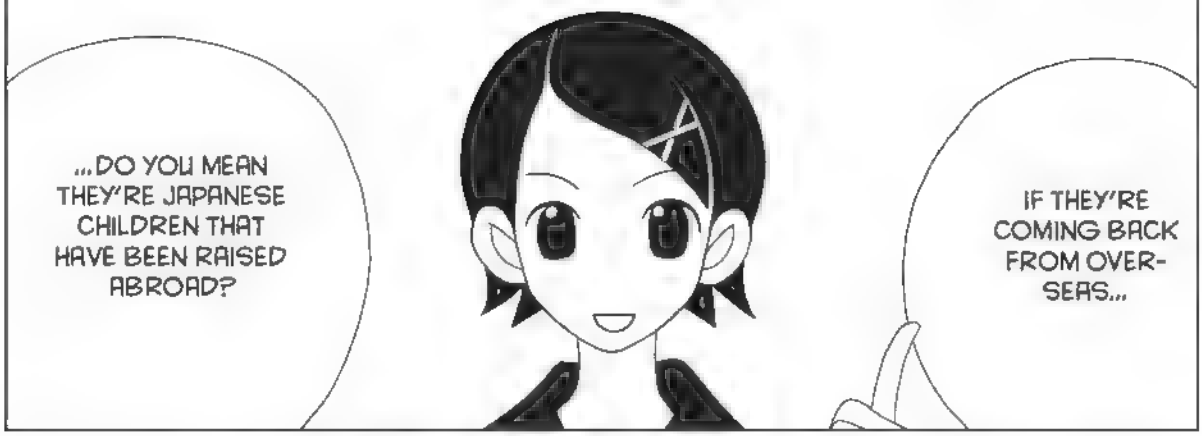
...THE OVERSEAS CLASS IS RETURNING !!

I MEAN, WE'RE NOT TALKING SOCCER HERE.
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?

AND I'M SORRY TO SAY THIS, BUT COMPARED WITH YOU ALL, THEIR LEVEL'S HIGHER, BY FAR.
OVERSEAS CLASS YEAR TWO
ACTUALLY, IT SEEMS OUR SCHOOL HAS AN OVERSEAS CLASS.

THEY'LL ELEVATE THE CLASS AVERAGES.


THERE ISN'T MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE, IS THERE?
TAKE BASEBALL, FOR EXAMPLE. THE DIFFERENCE IN ABILITIES BETWEEN YOU AND THEM IS LIKE BETWEEN RAKUTEN AND SHIDAX.


...DO YOU MEAN THEY'RE JAPANESE CHILDREN THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED ABROAD?
IF THEY'RE COMING BACK FROM OVER-SEAS...

YOU MEAN THOSE CHILDREN THAT SPEAK ENGLISH AND BLUNTLY ANSWER YES AND NO?
CHILDREN RETURNING FROM OVERSEAS?

WHAT KIND OF IMAGE IS THAT?
THOSE CHILDREN WHO'LL STARE INTO YOUR EYES WHEN THEY SPEAK?! ARE *THOSE* THE CHILDREN YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?
THOSE CHILDREN WHO'LL INCESSANTLY DECLARE, "TEACHER, YOUR ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION IS WRONG"?!

IT'S OVER! I'LL BE NAGGED IN FIVE LANGUAGES!
I'M IN DESPAIR OVER THE FOREIGN CLASS!
I'M IN DESPAIR!!

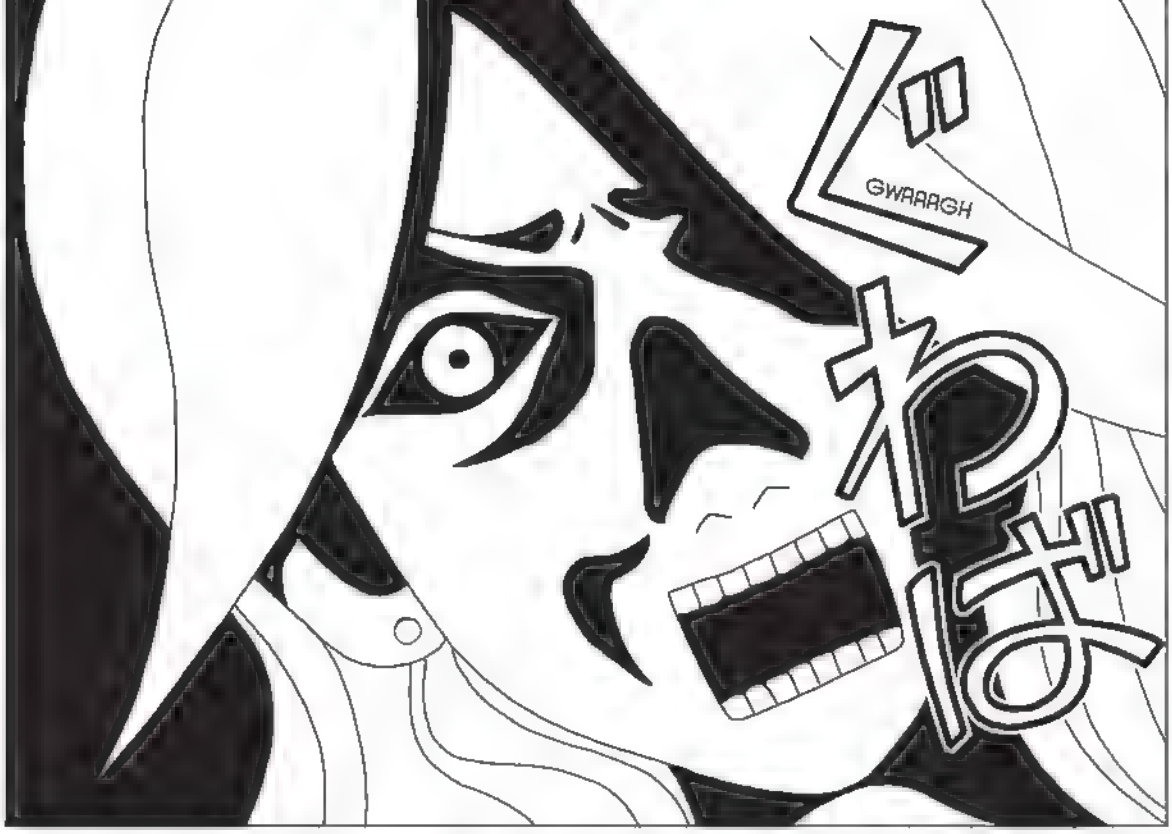
AH, THE HONORABLE FOREIGNER HAS ARRIVED!
SHFF
ガラッ
YIKES!

OVERSEAS RETURNEE GIRL
KAERE KIMURA
ARE YOU THE HOMEROOM TEACHER?
YEAH. SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
WHY DON'T YOU LOOK INTO MY EYES WHEN YOU SPEAK?
HAH! YOU AREN'T GOING TO FOOL ME WITH A TRICK LIKE THAT.
IF I LOOKED...
...YOU'D SUE ME FOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT!!

NO!
NO!
OR, IF YOU PUT YOUR CAT IN THE MICROWAVE, YOU CAN GET TEN MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE MICRO-WAVE COMPANY!
OUTSIDE OUR COUNTRY, THREE MILLION DOLLARS WAS PAID OUT IN DAMAGES JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE'S COFFEE WAS TOO HOT!
YOU'RE PLANNING TO SUE ME FOR BILLIONS, AREN'T YOU?!
YOU'LL SAY I'M LOOKING AT YOU LEWDLY.
...YOU'RE THE TYPE WHO'D SCREAM "PERVERT!" AND TURN ME OVER TO THE EKI-IN!
IF MY HAND BRUSHED YOUR SHOUL-DER...
すっ
SWSH
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WATCH IT!
THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF TEACHER HE IS.
WHAT'S WITH HIM, ANYHOW?
UP HERE... SEE?!
MY HANDS ARE UP HERE!
WHETHER I'VE TRAVELED OR NOT ISN'T THE POINT.
GOSH, IN THIS DAY AND AGE...
HAVE YOU NEVER BEEN ABROAD BEFORE, SENSEI?
...AN ISOLA-TIONIST! THAT'S ALL!!
I'M JUST...

出嶋
THUS, THIS CLASSROOM IS DEJIMA ISLAND, SO TO SPEAK.
THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE THAT I'LL HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH ANY OF YOU.
I TAKE MEASURES TO ISOLATE MY HEART FROM ALL STRANGERS.
IT'S NOT ONLY TOWARD FOREIGN COUNTRIES...
OHHH, I GET IT! IT WAS DEJIMA!
IF YOU SEE ME OUTSIDE, DON'T ADDRESS ME.
GEEZ! THAT ISN'T DEJIMA!
I GUESS THAT MUST HAVE BEEN DEJIMA.
MY UNCLE'S IN A PLACE LIKE THAT, AND HE HAS NO CONTACT WITH OUTSIDERS.
REMOVING SHOES TO GET IN CAR
IT'S NOT ONLY THE TEACHER, THIS COUNTRY'S FULL OF STRANGE THINGS!
NORTH
SHUDDER
ヒヤ
FRIGHTENED OF PILLOWS FACING NORTH
APPRECIATING OTHER GUYS' WIVES
WIVES' AFFAIRS
BUT EVEN THE JAPANESE CONSIDER THOSE THINGS STRANGE.
ARM-HAIR TRANSPLANTS
OUR TEACHER'S STRANGE EVEN FOR THIS COUNTRY.
TEACHERS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE REALLY STRANGE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THEY'RE LIKE SOMETHING THAT SAILORS WEAR.
ALSO, THE GIRLS' UNIFORMS ARE FUNNY.
...IS A SIGNAL THAT MEANS "HEY, HOW ABOUT TONIGHT?"
IN MY COUNTRY, THAT HAND GESTURE...
SOB
SOB
ARE YOU A CORPSE?
IN MY COUNTRY, A SIDE PART IS THE HAIRSTYLE THAT'S USED ON THE DEAD WHEN THEY'RE PUT IN COFFINS.
HUH?!
カーン
BOING!
...IS PROOF THAT YOU'VE LOST YOUR VIRGINITY!
IN MY COUNTRY, A DESK PAD WITH A STRAWBERRY PATTERN...
IF YOU DISLIKE IT SO MUCH HERE, WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK?
THIS IS JAPAN.
ENOUGH ALREADY!
IN MY COUN-TRY—
WHAT COUNTRY IS SHE FROM ANYWAY?
SHE'S COMING!
NOOOO. SHE'S COMING!
ふぅ
HEH
KIMURA, GO HOME!
THIS IS A FOREIGN COUN-TRY!
KIMURA, GO HOME!
TH S IS JAPAN!
KAERE!
KAERE!
GO HOME!
KAERE!
GO HOME!
GO HOME!
KAERE!
KAERE!
BA-BAM
カーン
ぴゃ
URK

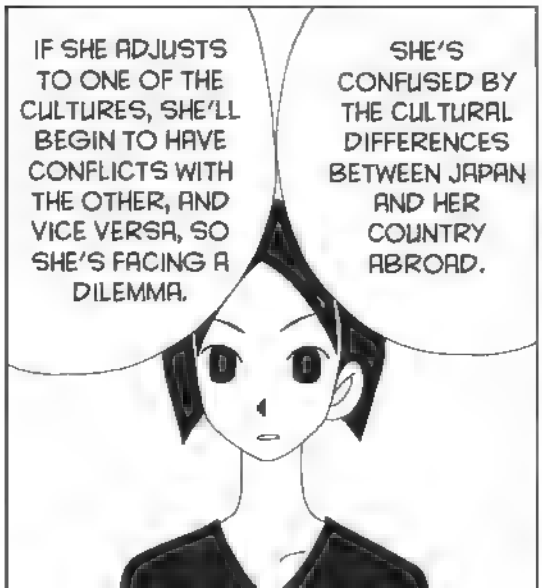

GWAAAGH
ねぼ

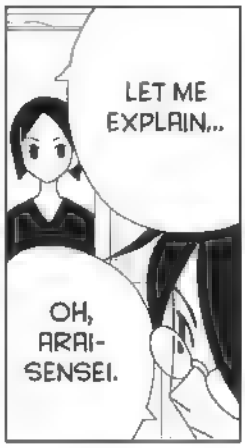
LET US HAVE WA—GROUP HARMONY—AND MAKE THINGS WELL.
MY NAME IS KAEDE KIMURA.

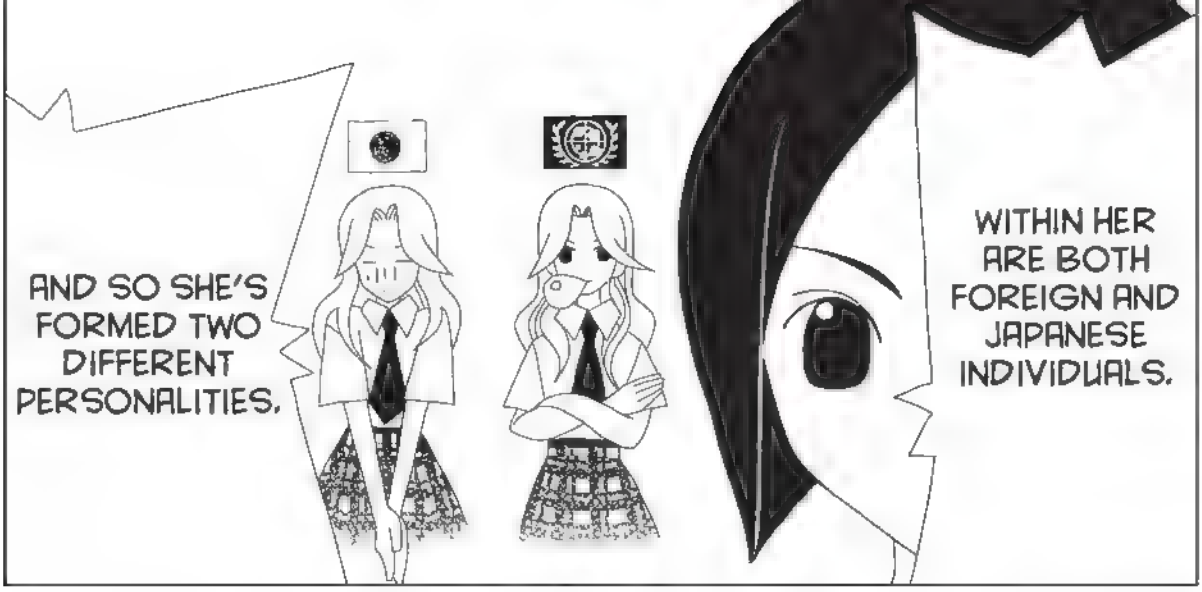
EEK!

WHAT ON EARTH'S GOING ON....?
もじ SHY
もじ SHY
もじ SHY
I'M SO EMBARRASSED! I'M SOOO EMBARRASSED!

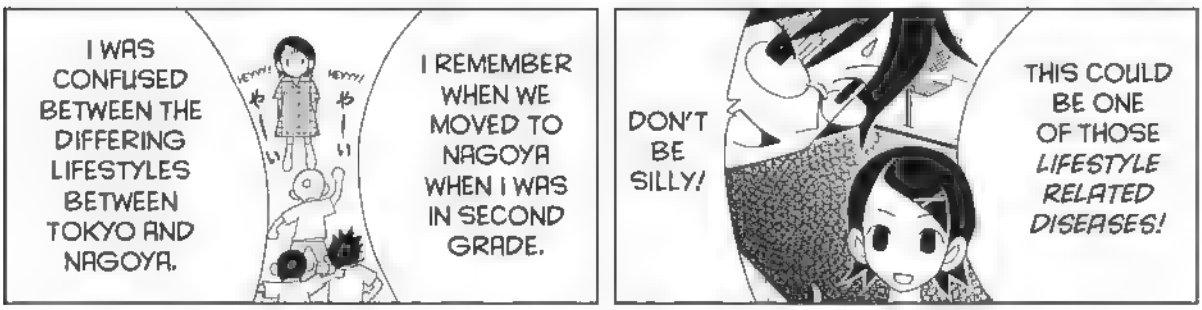
MY SKIRT'S SOOOO SHORT!
OH NO! YADA!

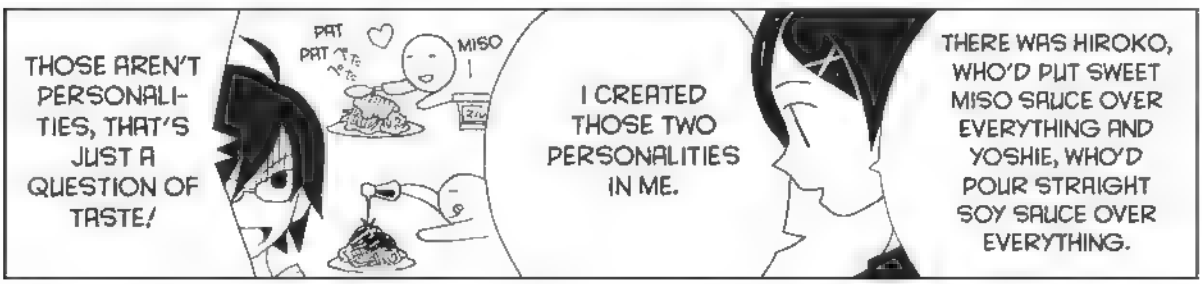

IF SHE ADJUSTS TO ONE OF THE CULTURES, SHE'LL BEGIN TO HAVE CONFLICTS WITH THE OTHER, AND VICE VERSA, SO SHE'S FACING A DILEMMA.
SHE'S CONFUSED BY THE CULTURAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN JAPAN AND HER COUNTRY ABROAD.

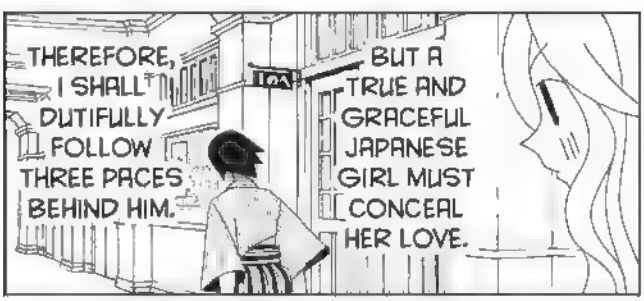

LET ME EXPLAIN...
OH, ARAI-SENSEI.

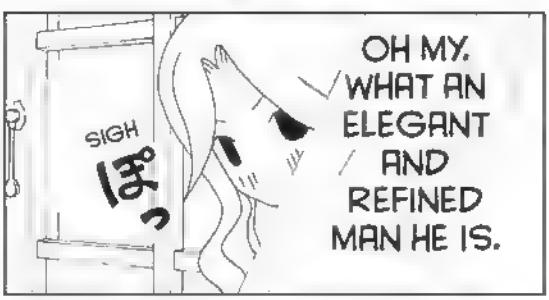

AND SO SHE'S FORMED TWO DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES.
WITHIN HER ARE BOTH FOREIGN AND JAPANESE INDIVIDUALS.

THIS COMES FROM DIFFERENCES IN CUSTOMS AND LIFESTYLE...
SHY もじっ
GIVE ME A BREAK.
THE PERSONALITY THAT'S SURFACED NOW IS THE JAPANESE ONE, KAEDE KIMURA.


I WAS CONFUSED BETWEEN THE DIFFERING LIFESTYLES BETWEEN TOKYO AND NAGOYA.
I REMEMBER WHEN WE MOVED TO NAGOYA WHEN I WAS IN SECOND GRADE.
DON'T BE SILLY!
THIS COULD BE ONE OF THOSE LIFESTYLE RELATED DISEASES!

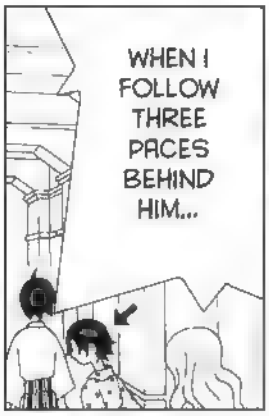

THOSE AREN'T PERSONALITIES, THAT'S JUST A QUESTION OF TASTE!
PAT PAT
MISO
I CREATED THOSE TWO PERSONALITIES IN ME.
THERE WAS HIROKO, WHO'D PUT SWEET MISO SAUCE OVER EVERYTHING AND YOSHIE, WHO'D POUR STRAIGHT SOY SAUCE OVER EVERYTHING.


THEREFORE, I SHALL DUTIFULLY FOLLOW THREE PACES BEHIND HIM.
BUT A TRUE AND GRACEFUL JAPANESE GIRL MUST CONCEAL HER LOVE.

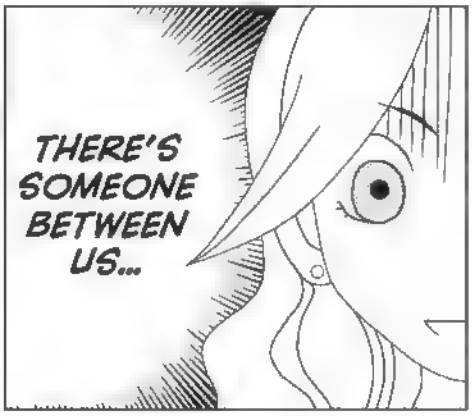

SIGH ぽっ
OH MY. WHAT AN ELEGANT AND REFINED MAN HE IS.

CLASS 1
?

...THAT GIRL ALWAYS GETS BETWEEN US.


WHEN I FOLLOW THREE PACES BEHIND HIM...

HEH


THERE'S SOMEONE BETWEEN US...

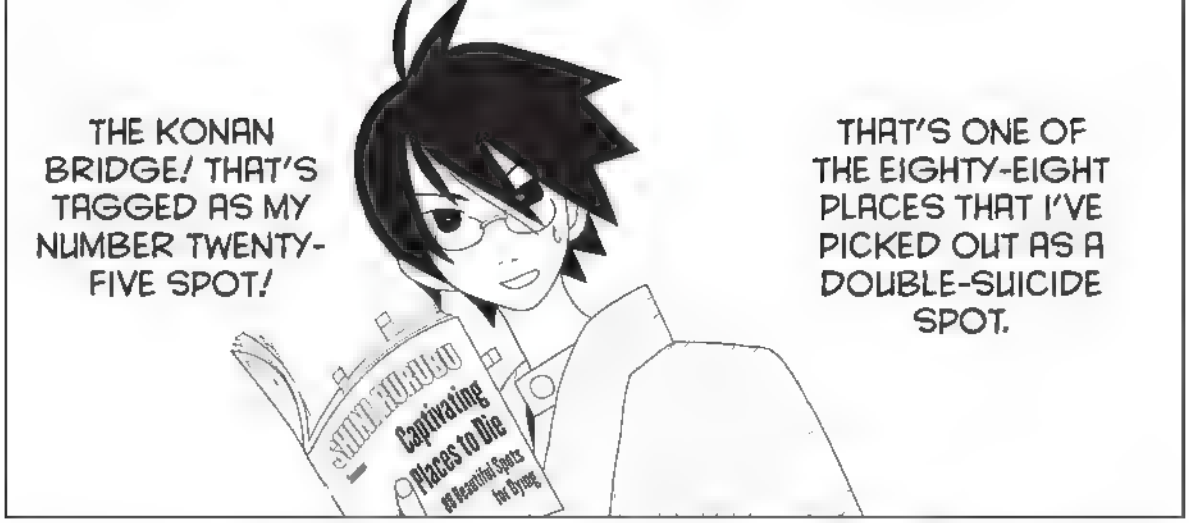
I'M FOLLOWING THAT GIRL.
WHO ARE YOU?

IF YOU'RE JAPANESE, KEEP YOUR PLACE IN LINE.
I'M AT MY LIMITS AS A JAPANESE GIRL!

...I SHALL JUST HAVE TO HURL MY BODY INTO—
IF MY LOVE IS NOT TO BE GRANTED...

OH! BUT IF I KEEP MY PLACE IN LINE, THE MAN I LOVE BECOMES SO FAR AWAY!
BAGA

HEY!

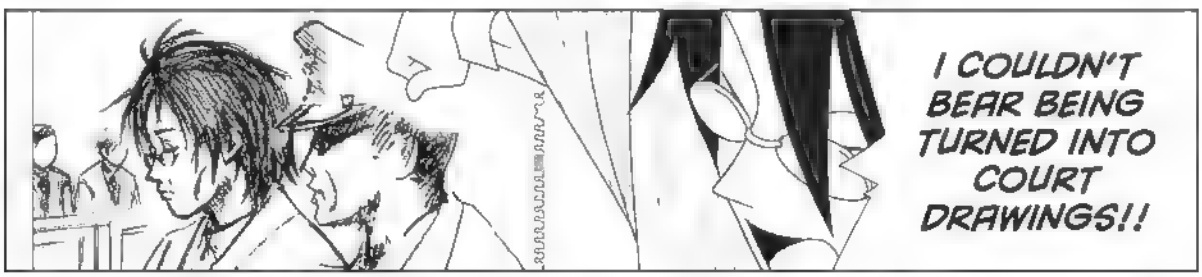

THE KONAN BRIDGE! THAT'S TAGGED AS MY NUMBER TWENTY-FIVE SPOT!
THAT'S ONE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHT PLACES THAT I'VE PICKED OUT AS A DOUBLE-SUICIDE SPOT.
SHUKAN JUNGO
Captivating Places to Die
88 Beautiful Spots for Dying

← POMEGRANATE FRUIT OF A SMALL DECIDUOUS TREE. RICHER IN CALCIUM THAN STRAWBERRIES.

I'M SUING.

JUST AS I EXPECTED. YOU'RE SUING ME.

THIS IS OUT-AND-OUT SEXUAL HARASSMENT. I'M SUING YOU.
HUH?


I COULDN'T BEAR BEING TURNED INTO COURT DRAWINGS!!

I BELIEVE THEY'RE MORE LIKE CHILDREN THAT HAVE BEEN FORCED TO RETURN.
THIS CONTAINER IS JUST FULL OF JAPANESE WHO'VE COME BACK FROM OVERSEAS.
ぶるぶる
SHUDDER SHUDDER
ボ
FOOM

ATTENDANCE LIST
CLASS 2-F

ATTENDANCE NO. 18

KAERE KIMURA

BILINGUAL GIRL

*NOTE: THE DRAWING SHOWS THE BUTTONS ON A JAPANESE CELL PHONE.

CHAPTER 7

The Hapless Child
Edward Gorey
(1925-2000)
MERU, I'D LIKE YOU TO READ NEXT.
FIDGET
FIDGET
UM...
UMM...

HEY, WAIT!
DASH
ダッ
HUH?
GENSHIKEN

HMM... IS THAT SO?
SHE'S POOR AT COMMUNICATING WITH STRANGERS.
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO, TEACHER. MERU'S GOT A SEVERE PROBLEM WITH ARTICULATING.

I REALLY LIKE PASSIVE CHILDREN LIKE YOU.

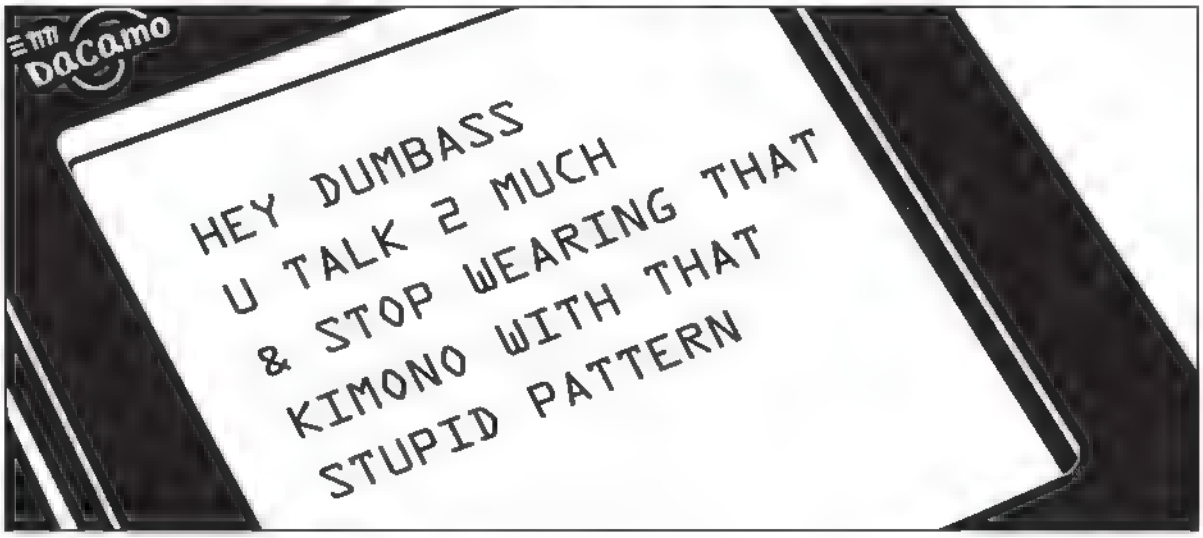
...YOU WON'T GET INVOLVED IN UNNECESSARY TROUBLES.
IF YOU DON'T TALK ABOUT UN-NECESSARY THINGS...
CLASS 2-F

THERE, THERE... IT'S OKAY.
FIDGET
FIDGET

• "IF THEY HAVE NO BREAD, THEN LET THEM EAT CAKE!"
→ FRENCH REVOLUTION
• "THOSE ARE COUNTRY PUMPKIN SAMURAI KNOW NO MANNERS!"
→ 47 RONIN
• "PLAYERS SHOULD KNOW THEIR PLACE. THEY ARE JUST PLAYERS."
→ PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL PLAYERS' STRIKE
• "AMI'S PAY IS LOWER THAN SPEED'S."
→ LEADS TO BEING TOTALLY IGNORED
• "I'M THE VERY FIRST NEGOTIATOR FOR THE POLICE AGENCY."
→ HAS TO CANCEL A DATE ON CHRISTMAS EVE
• "FROM THE SOVEREIGN OF THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN."
• "PARAPUNTE" • "BULSE"
PLENTY OF BIG PROBLEMS HAVE HAPPENED JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE SAID ONE UNNECESSARY WORD.
I'LL GIVE YOU SPECIAL TREATMENT.
YOU CAN JUST STAY MEEK AND QUIET.
...AND I DIDN'T TALK WITH ANYONE FOR A WHOLE WEEK.
YEARS AGO, I ALSO HAD A REALLY BAD EXPERIENCE...
BUT SOMETIMES JUST TALK TO YOURSELF. IT'LL BE GOOD FOR YOU.
FIDGET
FIDGET
UH
UH
CLUCK CLUCK
URK
...MY VOICE WOULDN'T COME OUT.
"WOULD YOU LIKE THAT HEATED UP?"
AFTER THAT, WHEN I WENT TO A CONVENIENCE STORE...
WHEN HE ASKED ME THAT...
THAT STORY'S SO REAL.
I WAS SHOCKED.
SO, IF YOU DON'T TALK FOR ONE WEEK, YOUR VOICE SUDDENLY STOPS WORKING.

I'M GOING TO MAKE A COM-PLAINT ABOUT YOU!
IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, JUST SAY IT!
FIDGET
FIDGET
STOP FIDGETING.
UHH...
UH...
HEY THERE.
FLIP
DON'T BULLY THE GIRL I'M FAVORING.
HOLD IT!
AN EMAIL ADDRESS?
HUH?
FIDGET
FIDGET
HMM.
THAT GIRL'S REALLY SHY. SHE CAN ONLY HAVE CONVERSATIONS THROUGH EMAIL.
SEND!
HEL LO
PRING-A-LING LING
H...E...L...L... O...THERE.
I'LL GIVE IT A GOOD TRY AND TYPE ONE OUT.
I'M NOT THAT GOOD AT EMAILING.

LET'S SEE HERE...
LOOKS LIKE I GOT A RESPONSE.
PRING-A-PING! PRING-A-PING! PING
ピロリパロピラ
MAIL MAIL
めるめる
MAIL


docomo
HEY DUMBASS
U TALK 2 MUCH
& STOP WEARING THAT
KIMONO WITH THAT
STUPID PATTERN

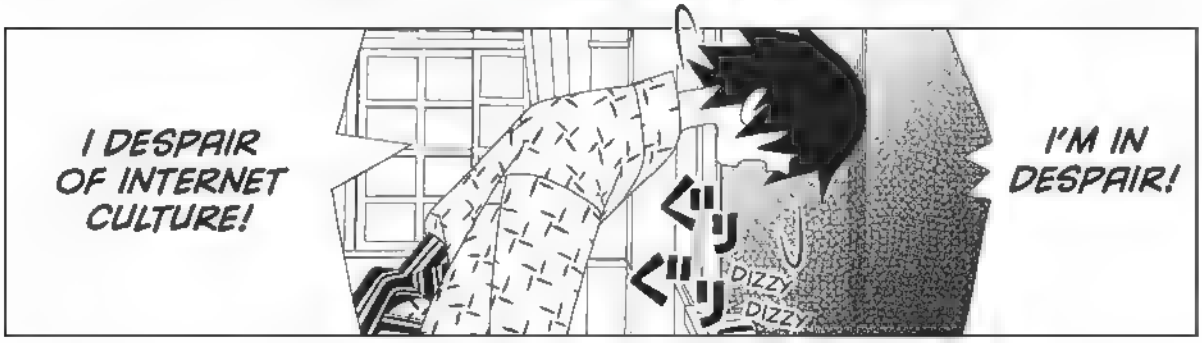
SUP DUDE ITS ME
I'M RIGHT IN
FRONT OF YOU
BTW YOUR
GLASSES SUCK
F501i
ピロリパロホ
PRING-A-PING
PONG
TH...THIS IS SOME MISTAKE, ISN'T IT?

スーガビーン
BWOINNG GGG

FIDGET
FIDGET
もじ
もじ
THESE ARE SPITEFUL, POISONOUS EMAILS!

ぷぃん
SOB
I'M NOT PLAYING FAVORITES WITH YOU AGAIN!

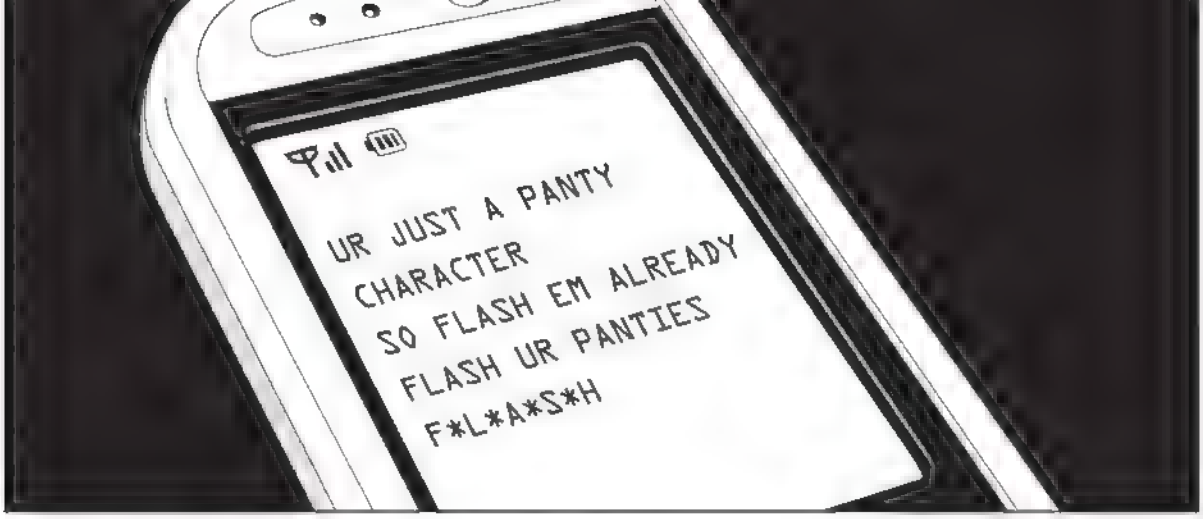
FIDGET
FIDGET
FIDGET
もじもじもじ
YOU'RE THE TYPE WHO WRITES MALICIOUS STUFF ABOUT ME ON THE NET!!


I DESPAIR OF INTERNET CULTURE!
ぐりぐり
DIZZY
DIZZY
I'M IN DESPAIR!

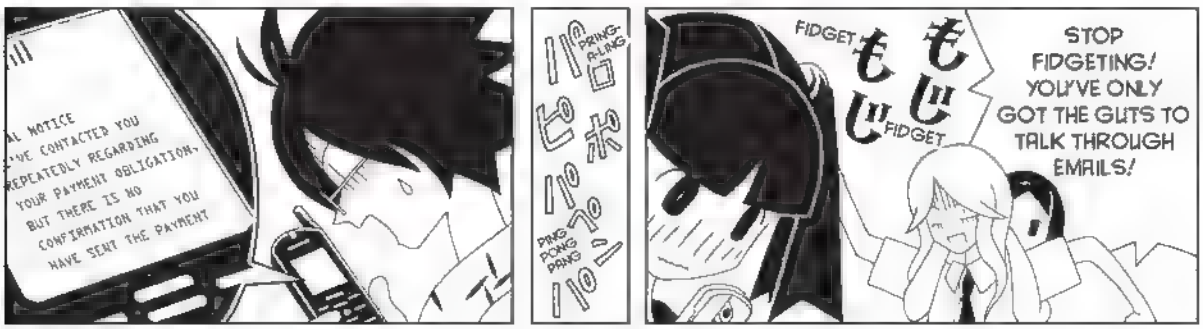
ピロロ
PRING-R-LING LING
パピラロ
I'VE SENT YOU MY ADDRESS.
THAT MEANS WE CAN TALK ON EQUAL TERMS.

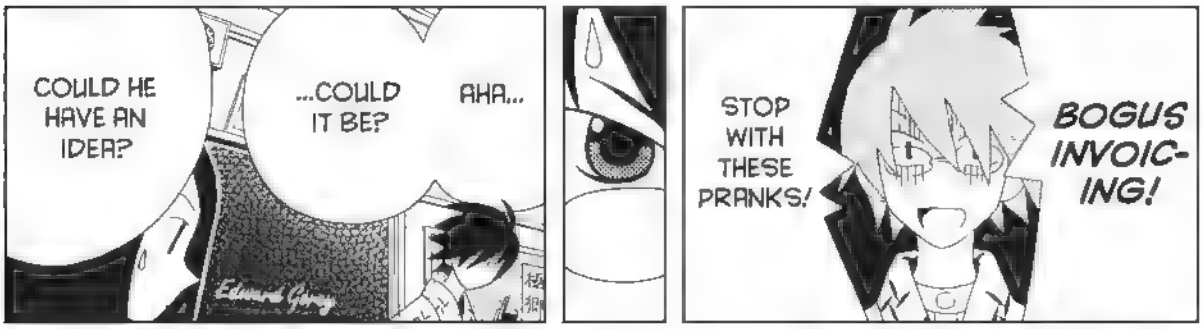
SO, LET'S SEE...

SO, SHE CAN SAY WHAT SHE WANTS THROUGH TEXT MESSAGES.
HMM...
ぐり
DIZZY
ぐり
DIZZY


UR JUST A PANTY CHARACTER
SO FLASH EM ALREADY
FLASH UR PANTIES
F*L*A*S*H

FIDGET
もじ
もじ
FIDGET
もじ
FIDGET
もじ
PANTIES
PANTIES
PANTIES
I'LL SUE YOU FOR THIS!
DING-A-LING


AL NOTICE
'VE CONTACTED YOU
REPEATEDLY REGARDING
YOUR PAYMENT OBLIGATION.
BUT THERE IS NO
CONFIRMATION THAT YOU
HAVE SENT THE PAYMENT
ピンポーン
PING PONG PANG
FIDGET
もじ
もじ
FIDGET
STOP FIDGETING! YOU'VE ONLY GOT THE GUTS TO TALK THROUGH EMAILS!


COULD HE HAVE AN IDEA?
...COULD IT BE?
AHA...
STOP WITH THESE PRANKS!
BOGUS INVOICING!

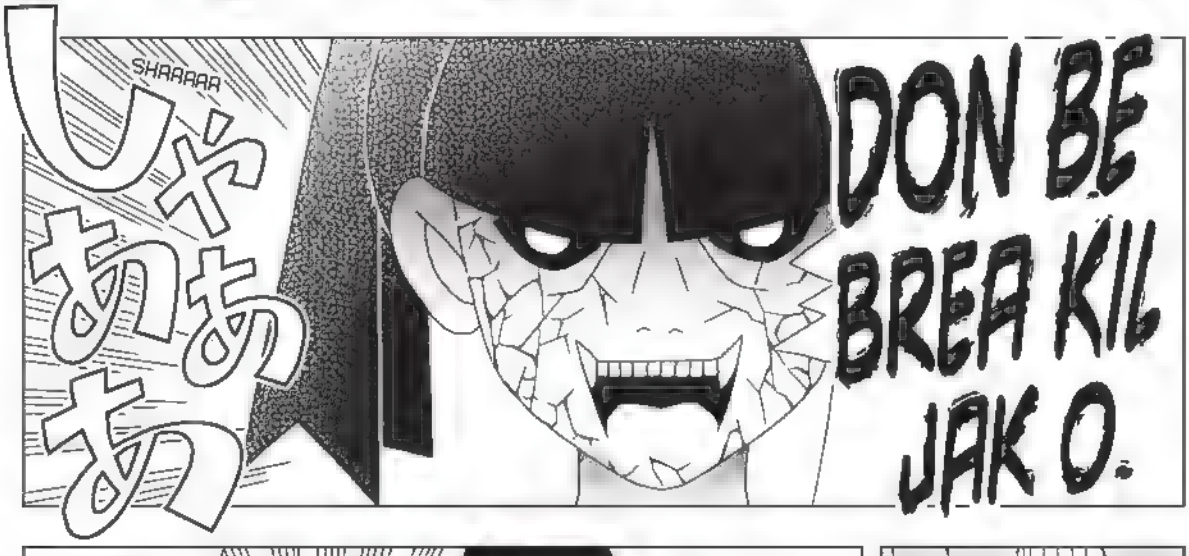
RECHARGING YOUR BATTERY IN SCHOOL IS FORBIDDEN! GOT THAT?!
THAT'S INEVITABLE, AFTER ALL THAT USE!
DEAD BATTERY?
PEEP
ピー
PEEP
ピー
PEEP
ピー

ばっ
BAM
すっ
FWUP
HOW ABOUT EXPOSING HERSELF? IS THAT BANNED IN SCHOOL?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, RAMBO?!
カチッ
CLICK
ちゃっ
SLIDE
SINCE WHEN DID U GET TO BE CHAIRMAN, MISS HAIR-PARTED-IN-THE-MIDDLE?
IF YOU UNDER YOUR
IN THIS WAY, THE POISON EMAILS HARASSED THE CLASS.
HE JUST HAS TO SHUT OFF THE POWER, OR BLOCK HER EMAILS.
DAMN! ANOTHER ONE!
THAT'S IT!
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING REAL FAST!
MY SEAT'S OUT OF RANGE.
どよんどよん
URRGH
THE ATMOSPHERE IN THIS CLASSROOM'S GOTTEN BRUTAL!

THE TWO OF YOU, EXCHANGE SEATS.

NOW SHE CAN'T SEND US HER SPECIALTY POISON EMAILS.
OUT OF RANGE

.....
GO ON! TRY TALKING WITH YOUR MOUTH!
SO, IF YOU'VE GOT SOME-THING TO SAY, SAY IT!

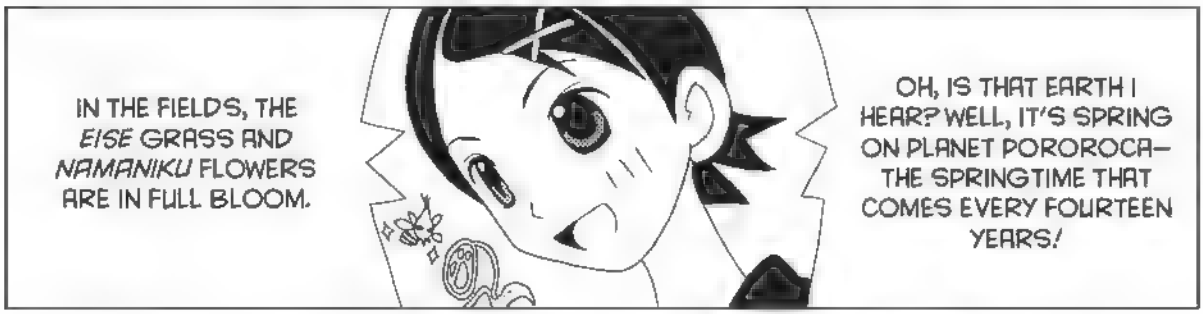

SHAAAAA
しゃあああ
DON BE BREA KIL JAK O.

SUSU NIRE. KU. KU. BRIYU, TO HEI BINGO.
SHAAAA
しゃあああ
SHE'S SPEAKING A LANGUAGE I'VE NEVER HEARD BEFORE!

IT'S FREAKING ME OUT! IT'S FREAKING ME OUT!
CRACK
SHATTER
WHAT IS THIS? IT SOUNDS LIKE IT'S ECHOING STRAIGHT FROM THE PITS OF HELL!
SNAP!
EVEN HER WORDS ARE SCRAMBLED!
IT'S THE SAME ONE MY MOM WAS SPEAKING BACK THEN!
OH! I REC-OGNIZE THIS LAN-GUAGE!
HURRY, GET BACK TO YOUR SEATS BEFORE SHE WAKES UP.
WHUMP
TAKE THIS!
HUP
IF YOU LOOK INTO SOMEONE'S EYES, YOU'LL KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TRYING TO SAY.
...THERE ARE PLENTY OF WAYS TO COMMUNICATE.
EVEN WITHOUT EMAILS OR SPEAKING...
OH NO
OH NO
YOU'LL BE FINE.

OH MY. BUT YOU KNOW, WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS FROM THE VERY START.
じ STAAARE
YOU MAKE ME FEEL BASHFUL WHEN YOU SAY THAT YOU LIKE ME SO MUCH.
SPIN
SPIN
YOU DON'T NEED TO GO TO THE TROUBLE OF ASKING ME TO BE YOUR FRIEND.
KILL
KILL
KILL
KILL
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'M THINKING?
NOW, IT'S *YOUR* TURN TO LOOK INTO *MY* EYES.
SHE'S DANGEROUS!
EEK!
IF YOU WISH FOR IT, YOUR THOUGHTS WILL BE CONVEYED!
THERE'S NO NEED FOR WORDS OR LETTERS.
ULP!
GLOMP
むずんぱ
すーっ
SHF

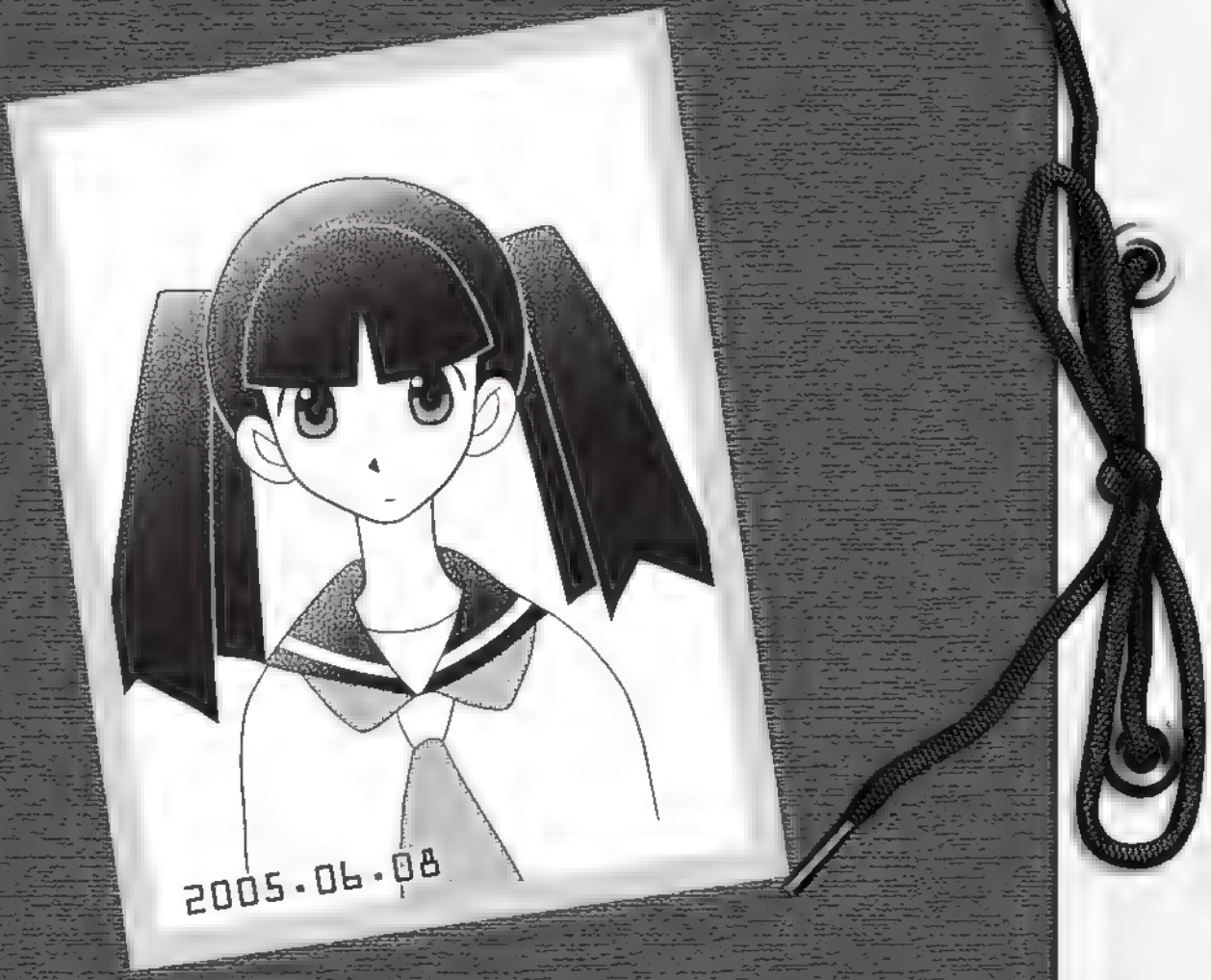
EARTH CALLING! EARTH CALLING!


IN THE FIELDS, THE *EISE* GRASS AND *NAMANIKU* FLOWERS ARE IN FULL BLOOM.
OH, IS THAT EARTH I HEAR? WELL, IT'S SPRING ON PLANET POROROCA— THE SPRINGTIME THAT COMES EVERY FOURTEEN YEARS!

ぶんぶ SPIN
ぶんぶ SPIN
...ARE GOING TO HAVE A MEETING OF THE INSECTS!
SO THE LOVING LOCUSTS, PINK TURTLE-BUGS, AND DARK KANABUN BEETLES...

OH!
ぴら FLASH
ぴゃーーー WHOOOSH
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU COMMUNICATING WITH?
SPIN くる
SPIN くる

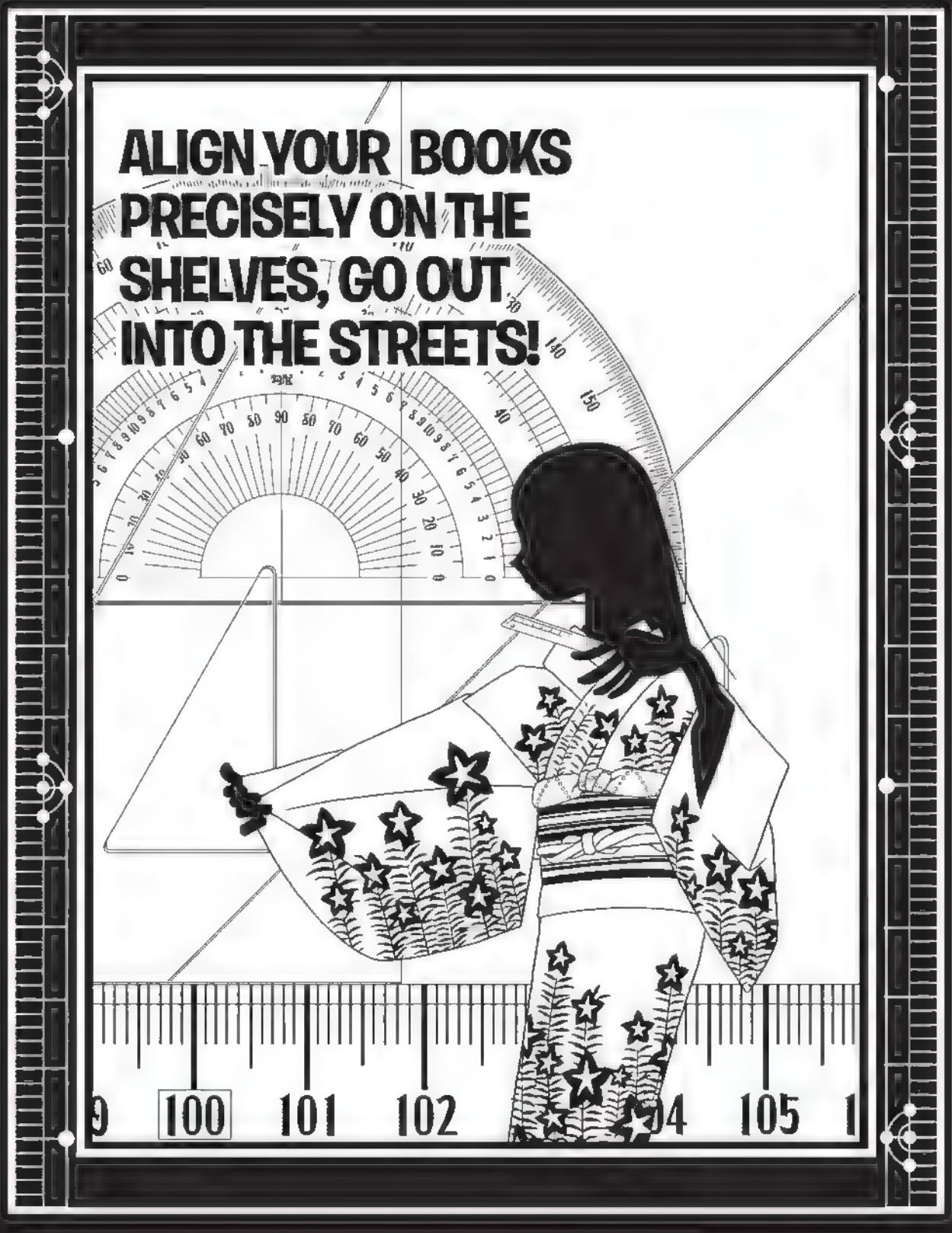
ATTENDANCE LIST
CLASS 2-F



ATTENDANCE NO. 16

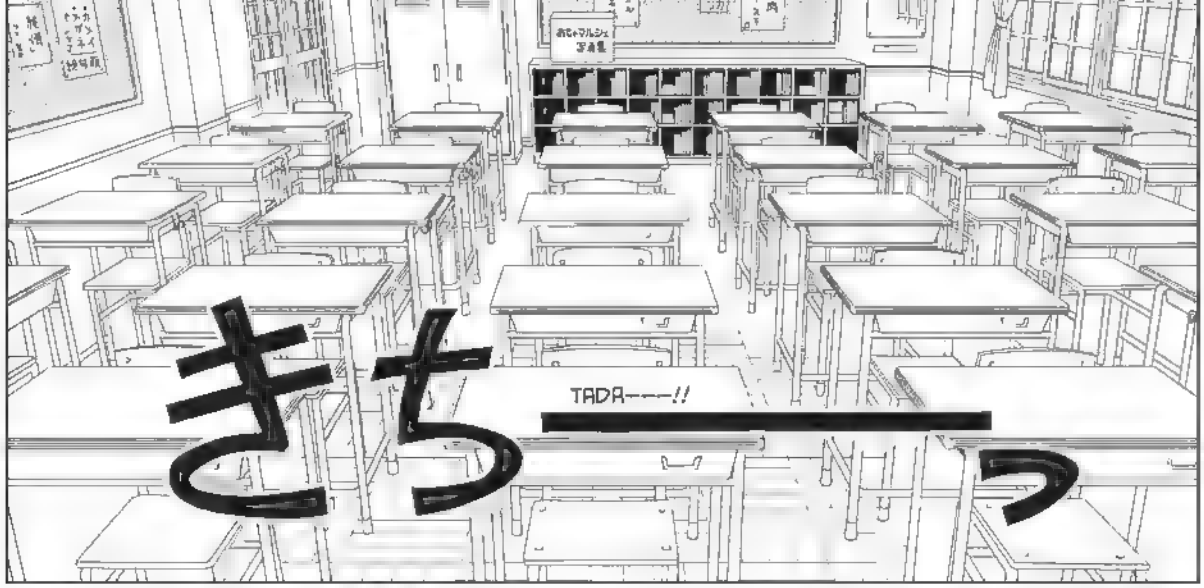
MERU OTONASHI

POISON EMAIL GIRL


ALIGN YOUR BOOKS PRECISELY ON THE SHELVES, GO OUT INTO THE STREETS!
100
101
102
105

CHAPTER 8

I CAN'T STAND IT IF EVERYTHING'S NOT PRECISE. THAT'S JUST THE WAY I AM.
MESSY
だら～
SURVEYOR


きちっ
TADA----!!

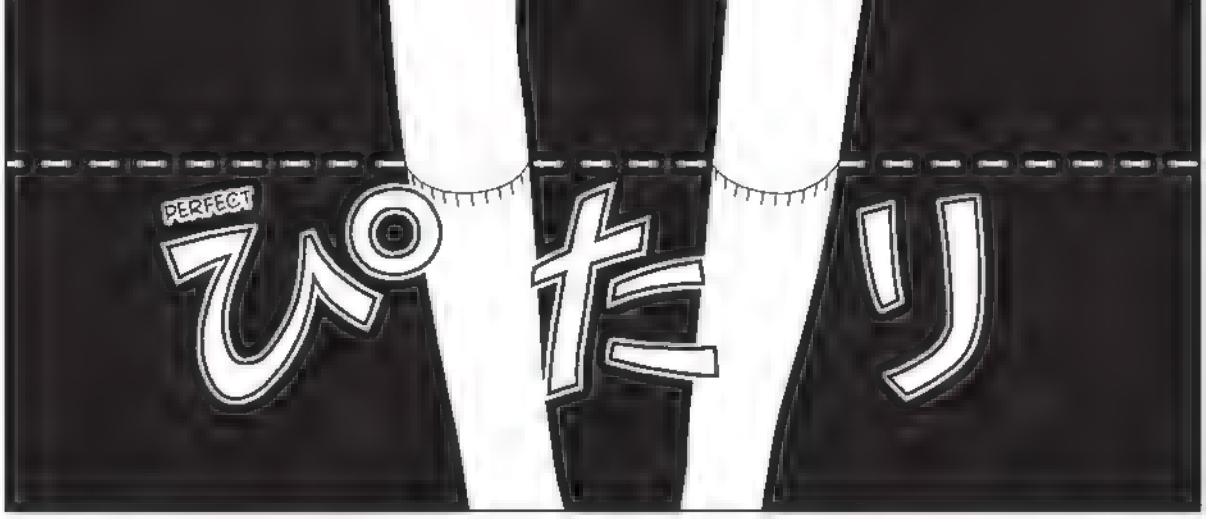
OH, CHAIR-MAN, YOU SURE ARE HERE EARLY.

AHH, SO NEAT...

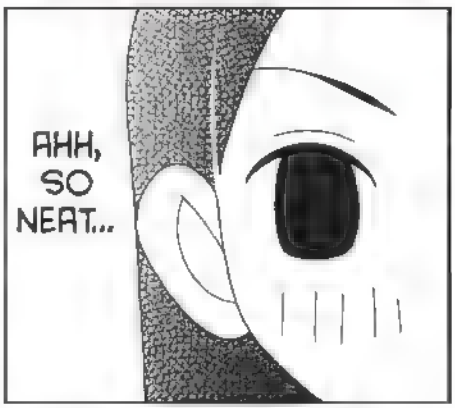
すっ
FWIP
Sock Tou

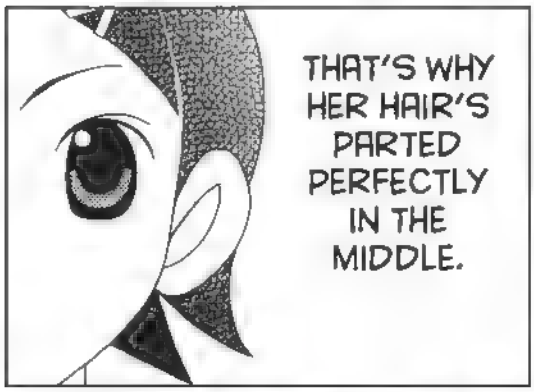
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE WORDS "APPEARANCE IS A MUST"?

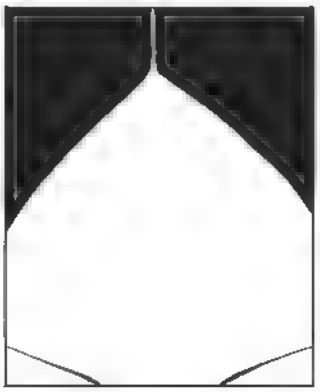
HEEE... IT TICKLES!!
キャハハ
HEE HEE HEE HEE


PERFECT
ぴったり

JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM THE CHAIRMAN— PRECISION.
I GET TOTALLY IRRITATED WHEN SOME-ONE'S SOCKS ARE SLIPPING, OR UNEVEN.


AHH, SO NEAT...


THAT'S WHY HER HAIR'S PARTED PERFECTLY IN THE MIDDLE.



FIDGET
FIDGET
もじ
もじ

SHFF
カラッ

GULP
KLIK
THINGS LIKE THESE DRIVE ME CRAZY!
WHY DON'T YOU SHUT THE DOOR PROPERLY?

08:01
HEY DUMBASS STFU UR GONNA GO BALD FROM THAT PART IN UR HAIR
PREE EEEP PEEEEP

GULP
EEK!
SPIN
HEY! COME OVER HERE!

SO THAT'S WHAT SHE WAS UPSET ABOUT...
THINGS LIKE THESE DRIVE ME CRAZY!
WHY DON'T YOU USE PUNC-TUATION MARKS?!

I BOUGHT YOU THE ART SUPPLIES YOU ASKED FOR.
HEY CHAIR-MAN!

WHAT KIND OF GRAMMAR IS THIS?

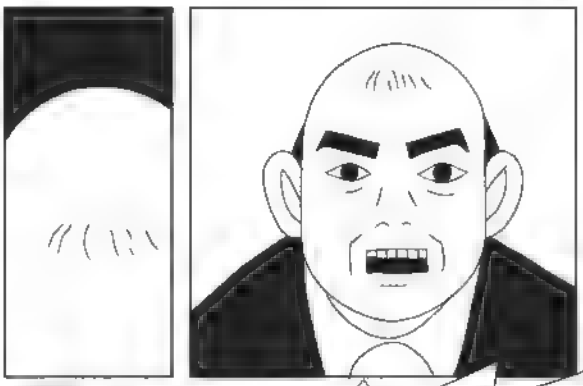
1,000 YEN'LL BE FINE.
WELL....IT WAS 1,029 YEN WITH TAX...
THANKS. HOW MUCH WAS IT?
GRRRR...
THINGS LIKE THESE DRIVE ME CRAZY!
ADD EVERY-THING RIGHT, AND BILL ME!!
EEK!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "FINE"?
PLAN
TOUR OF ITALY
1 day! Limited to 300 persons!
"Let's Lean on the Leaning Tower of Pisa" Tour
OUBO TOURS
FASCINATING PARIS
For your trip contact YA!
HONG KONG SHANGHAI
AKABANE
MAKE UP YOUR MIND, YOU DAMN TOWER!
ARE YOU STANDING OR ARE YOU FALLING?
YOU SEE, THERE ARE TOO MANY THINGS ALL OVER THE WORLD THAT ARE NOT CLEAR AND PRECISE.
KING BOOKSTORE
GAME URARA

AGGGH! THINGS LIKE THESE DRIVE ME CRAZY!
YOU'VE GOT TO START AT TEN O'CLOCK SHARP!
RETIREMENT
00 ACE NO.1
"HIGE NI KUGITSUKE!
YOKO'S PHOTOS ARE
OSSESSED!" STARRING
I-RO FUNEKOSHI, AYA UETO
AND OTHERS
54
NEWS REPORT STATION
• FORMER JAPANESE SOLDIER
CLOSE WATCH 24 HOURS
• MARUKO'S FINANCIAL NEWS
• WAKABAYASHI RAIDED!
EXPOSED
• FURUDATE HIROSHI
GUEST: TETSUKO
11.10 WORLD COMPANY PRESIDENTS HOMES
TOMIO SUSUMU

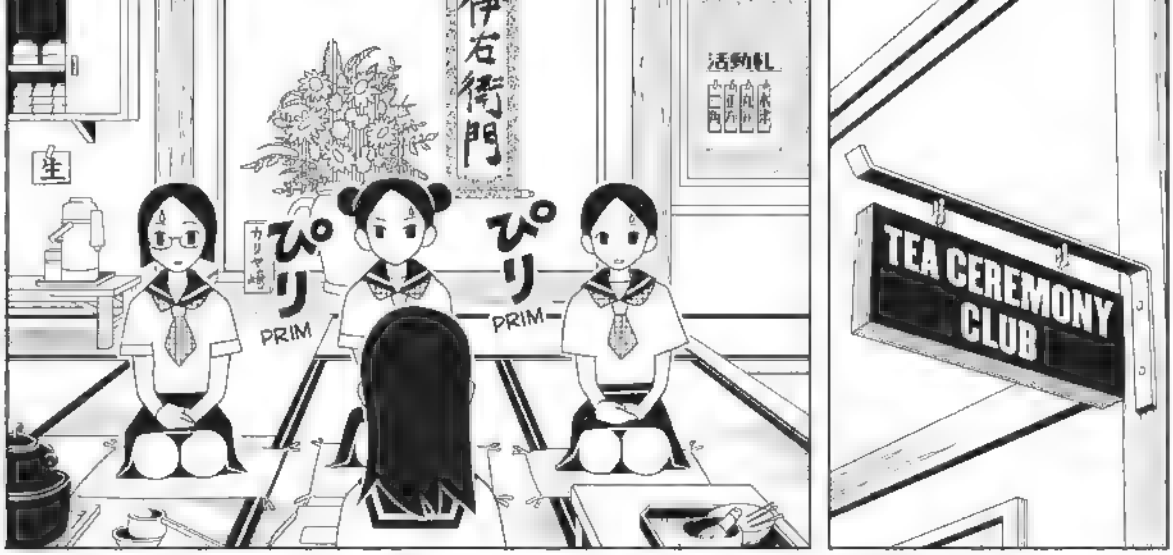
AGGGH! THINGS LIKE THESE DRIVE ME CRAZY!
MAKE UP YOUR MIND! YOUR ACT SHOULD BE EITHER FUNNY OR NOT FUNNY!

JANGA
じゃんがじゃんがじゃんが
SONY

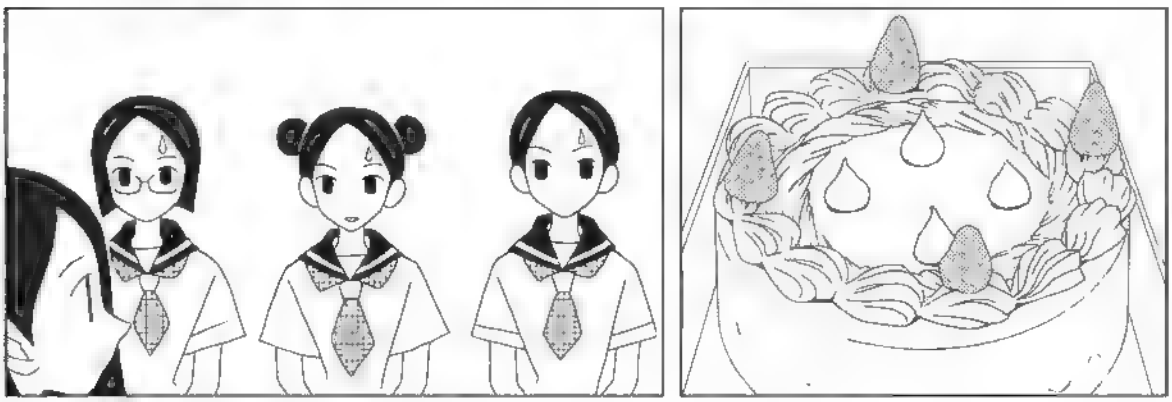
AGGGH! THINGS LIKE THESE DRIVE ME CRAZY!
WHOA
WHAT'S IT GOING TO DO? GROW OR GO BALD? MAKE UP YOUR MIND!

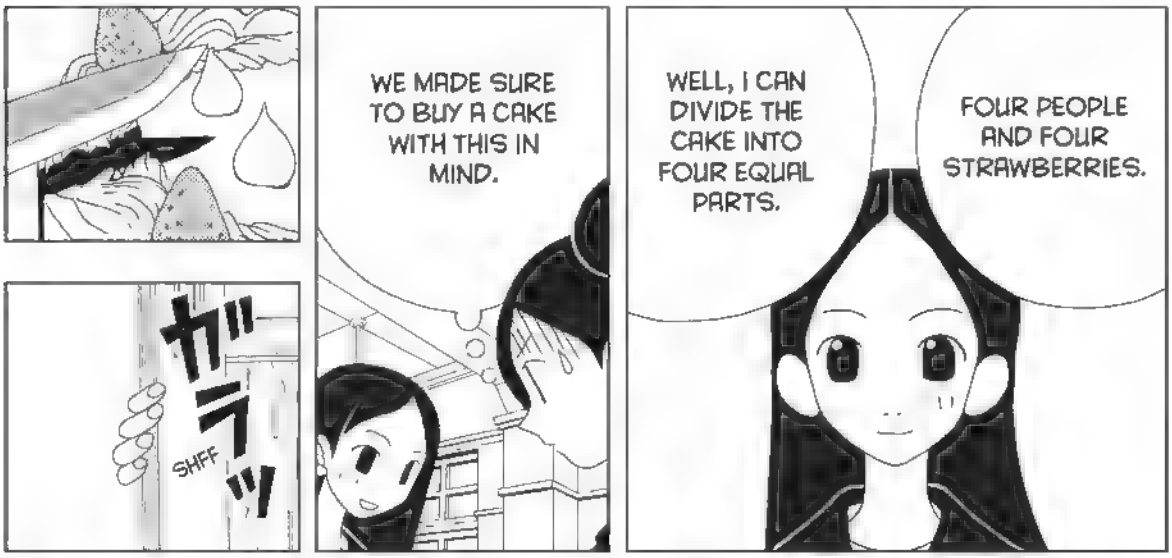


MAKE UP YOUR MINDS! THINGS LIKE THESE DRIVE ME CRAZY!
RIE TOMOSAKY'S ASYMMETRICAL FACE
TRAIN PLATFORMS NOT LINING UP WITH TRAIN DOORS
POOF
A WEIRD HAIRDO AT A TOP SUMO WRESTLER'S FUNERAL
ANYHOW, I'D LIKE TO DO SOMETHING CREATIVE.
THE UNSPECIFIC DREAMS THAT YOUNG EXECS FOR THE FAMIRES CAFÉ SPEAK ABOUT
BENTO BOX WITH RICE OUT OF LINE
ONE VOLUME IN A SERIES WITH A DIFFERENT SPINE
INNER DOUBLE EYELID, OR DEEP DOUBLE EYELID?
COLD MEDICINE: WHAT'S THE VERDICT—ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO TAKE 'EM OR NOT?
ORE
WARE
WA
RAOU'S SPEECH PATTERNS
HIGHWAY NO. 5 WITH A CURVE THAT SEEMS STRAIGHT
PORE WITH TWO HAIRS


ぴり
PRIM
ぴり
PRIM
TEA CEREMONY CLUB

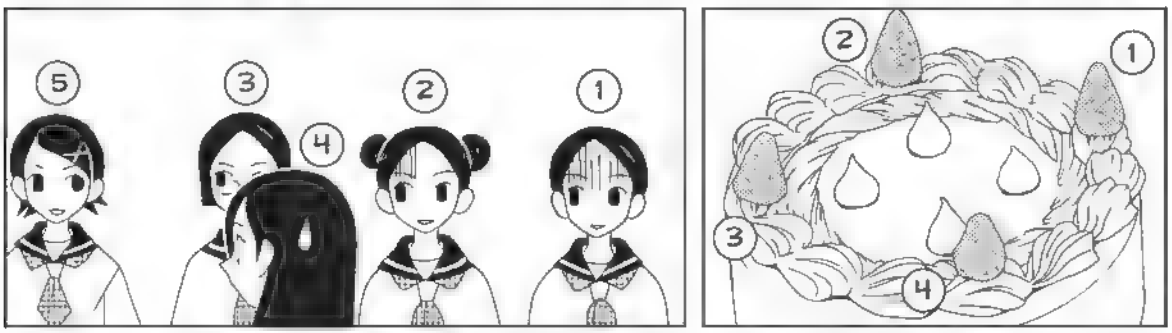
NOW, I'LL CUT THE CAKE, OKAY?
THANK YOU.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHAIRMAN.

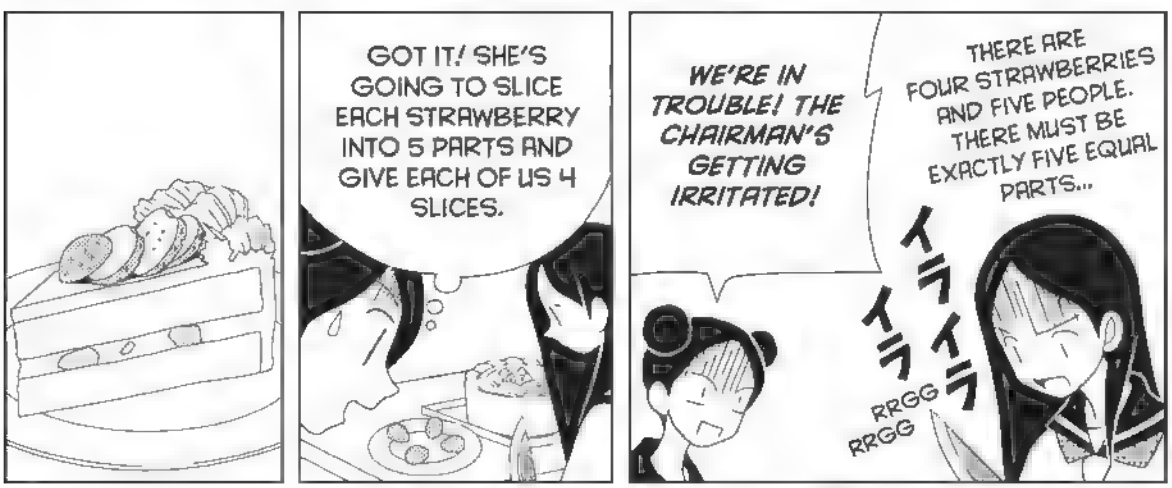


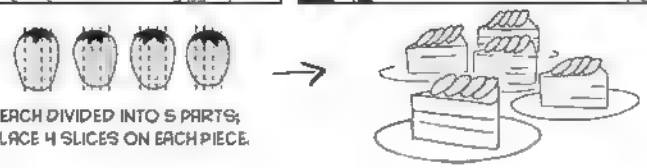

WE MADE SURE TO BUY A CAKE WITH THIS IN MIND.
WELL, I CAN DIVIDE THE CAKE INTO FOUR EQUAL PARTS.
FOUR PEOPLE AND FOUR STRAWBERRIES.
ガラッ
SHFF

I'D LIKE TO TRY OUT THIS CLUB FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
TEA CEREMONY CLUB
CONFUSION ROOM IS CLOSED
HI! SORRY FOR COMING WITHOUT ANY NOTICE.

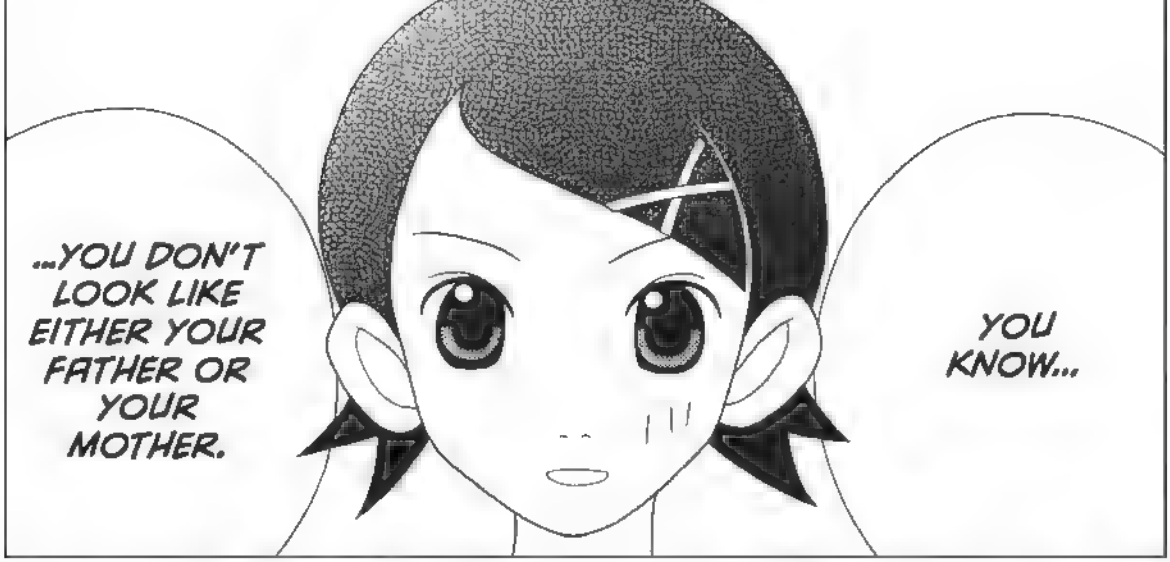
WHY'D YOU COME NOW?! YOU'RE TIMING'S SO OFF. DON'T YOU SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?!

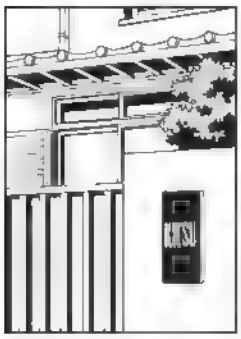

5
3
4
2
1
2
1
3
4

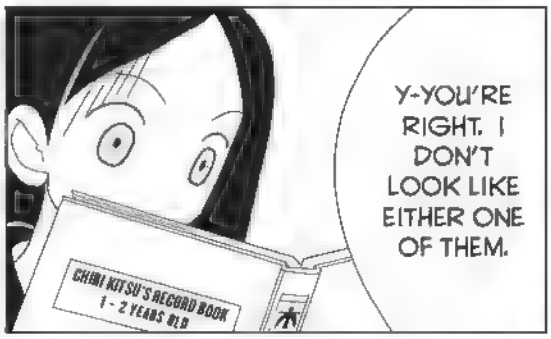

GOT IT! SHE'S GOING TO SLICE EACH STRAWBERRY INTO 5 PARTS AND GIVE EACH OF US 4 SLICES.
WE'RE IN TROUBLE! THE CHAIRMAN'S GETTING IRRITATED!
THERE ARE FOUR STRAWBERRIES AND FIVE PEOPLE. THERE MUST BE EXACTLY FIVE EQUAL PARTS...
イライラ
イライラ
RRGG
RRGG

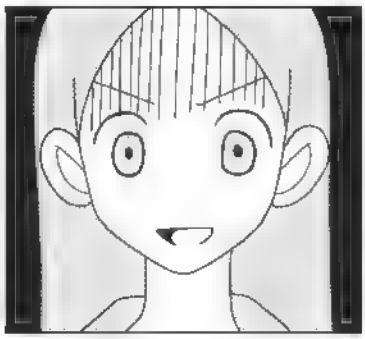

EACH DIVIDED INTO 5 PARTS; PLACE 4 SLICES ON EACH PIECE.

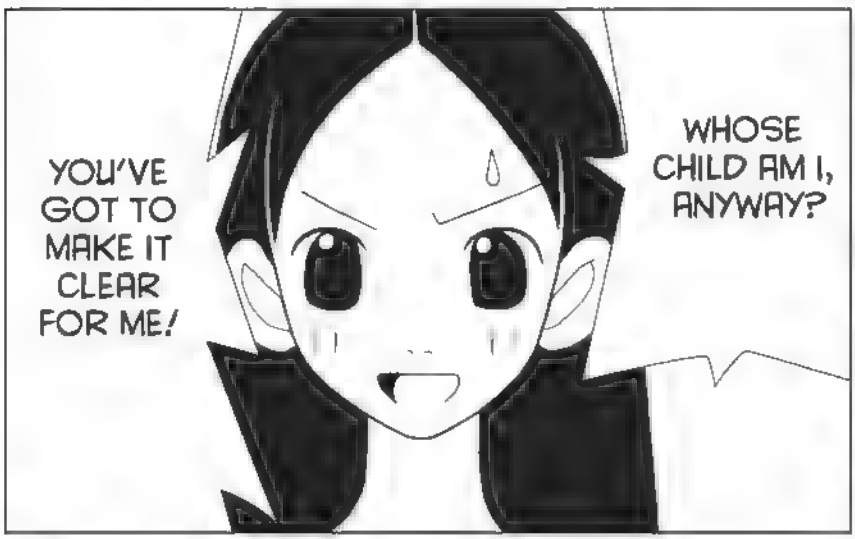
MAY I HAVE A LITTLE PIECE?
WOW! SURE SMELLS NICE AND SWEET AROUND HERE.
PHEW...
CRUMPLE
WHIRR
NOW, PLEASE ENJOY IT.
THESE ARE YOUR PARENTS, RIGHT?
IS THIS YOUR ALBUM, CHAIRMAN?
THAT WAS SOME STRANGE DRINK I HAD BACK THERE. I'M STARTING TO FEEL ILL.
URGH...

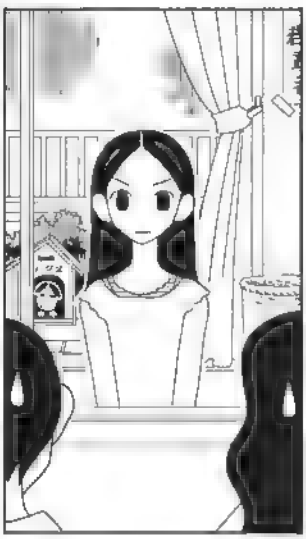

...YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE EITHER YOUR FATHER OR YOUR MOTHER.
YOU KNOW...


KITSU


CHIBI KITSU'S RECORD BOOK
1 - 2 YEARS OLD
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T LOOK LIKE EITHER ONE OF THEM.




YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE IT CLEAR FOR ME!
WHOSE CHILD AM I, ANYWAY?



EVEN IF YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOUR PARENTS AT ALL, IT'S OKAY.
THIS DRIVES ME CRAZY!
AFTER ALL THAT, THEY STILL COULDN'T GIVE ME CLEAR PROOF OF WHOSE CHILD I WAS!

WE HEAR YOU, BUT...

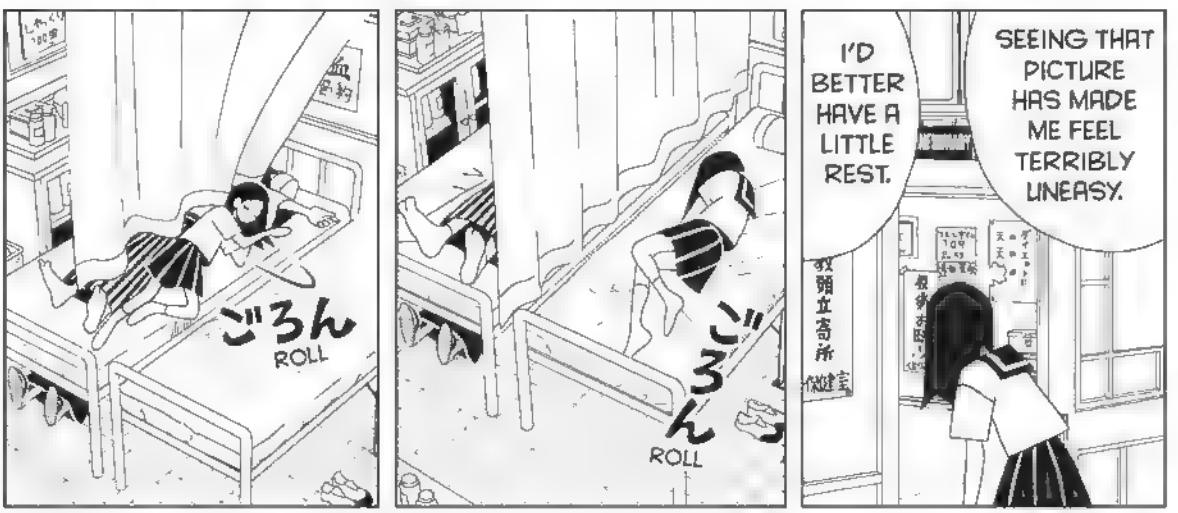
I CAN'T STAND IT IF IT'S NOT ALL CLEAR!
W-WELL, IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, YOU'RE ACTUALLY—

BECAUSE ALL PEOPLE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD.

WITH ALL THOSE GODS AROUND, THERE'S BOUND TO BE SOMEONE THAT YOU LOOK LIKE.
EVEN IF I SAY "GOD," THERE'RE *ALL KINDS* OF GODS.
AREN'T YOU MOVING IN SOME ODD DIRECTION LATELY?

BUT YOU DO...
I DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT GOD!

BY THE WAY, CHAIRMAN, THE GOD THAT YOU LOOK LIKE IS *BALBORA THE THIRD*. HE'S IN CHARGE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.


ごろん ROLL
ごろん ROLL
I'D BETTER HAVE A LITTLE REST.
SEEING THAT PICTURE HAS MADE ME FEEL TERRIBLY UNEASY.

MM.
NNH...
SLIDE
すう
...SINCE THIS HAS HAPPENED, THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE.
W-WELL. IT'S SOMETHING BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN, SO...
HUH?
HUH?
むく
OOPS
WHAT?
PLEASE DO A PROPER JOB OF IT.
YOU NEEDN'T PERFORM YOUR DUTY SO PROPERLY, YOU KNOW.
FLASH
ぴろ
UH...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, ANYHOW?
AND PLEASE PAY A PROPER VISIT WITH MY PARENTS.
PLEASE HAVE ME PUT PROPERLY INTO YOUR FAMILY REGISTER.

ATTENDANCE LIST
CLASS 2-F

ATTENDANCE NO. 17

CHIRI KITSU

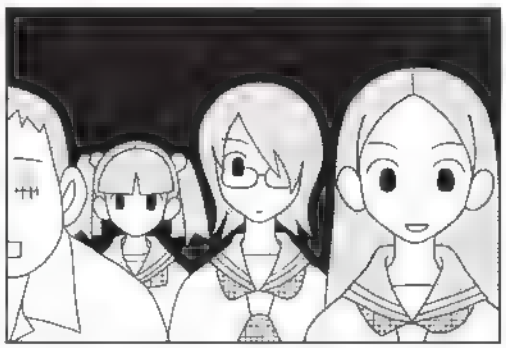
METHODICAL AND PRECISE GIRL

CHAPTER 9

OUR TEACHER STILL ISN'T HERE.
WHAAT?

TODAY, OUR ZETSUBOU-SENSEI HAS TAKEN OFF TO COLLECT INFORMATION.

I FOUND IT ON HIS DESK.
Please don't look for me
—Nozomu Itoshiki
AND JUST WHAT IS THIS?!

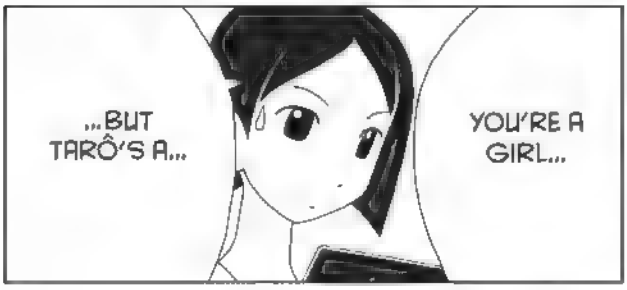


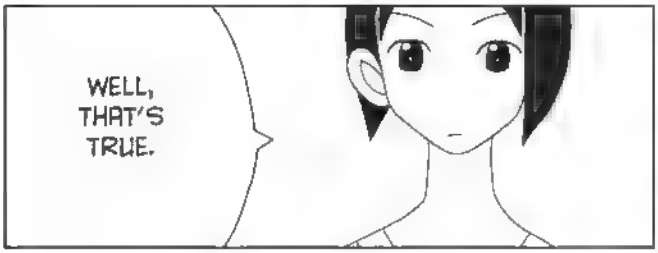
GEE. THAT ISN'T POSSIBLE.
PLAYING HOOKY? RUNNING AWAY?

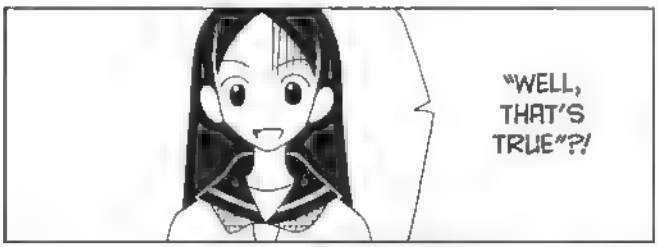
HE'S PROBABLY JUST PLAYING HOOKY.
HE'S RUN OFF?!
HUH?! WHAT'S THIS?

AND HE'LL TEACH US SUCH FABULOUS THINGS FROM HIS EXPERIENCES!
HE'S OBVIOUSLY TAKEN OFF TO COLLECT IDEAS FOR OUR CLASS.
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT TAKING IT EASY?
GOSH, WE NEVER GET TO TAKE IT EASY.
...DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE ON VACATION.
JUST BECAUSE YOUR TEACHER HAS LEFT THE CLASS-ROOM...
...AND TAKE ATTENDANCE.
IN THE MEAN-TIME, I'LL TAKE HIS PLACE...
IT'S JUST THAT SENSEI'S NEVER TAKEN ATTENDANCE BEFORE.
NO.
IS THERE SOME-THING WRONG?
SEKIUCHI-KUN.
TSUNETSUKI-SAN'S OFF TODAY, RIGHT?
HERE!
KITSU-SAN.
HERE!
LET'S START, AKAGI-SAN.
HE CERTAINLY IS A PROBLEM TEACHER.
I SEE.
IS SEKIUCHI-KUN OFF TODAY, TOO?
SEKIUCHI-KUN...
TARÔ SEKIUCHI!
Class 2-F

HERE!


...BUT TARÔ'S A...
YOU'RE A GIRL...


WELL, THAT'S TRUE.

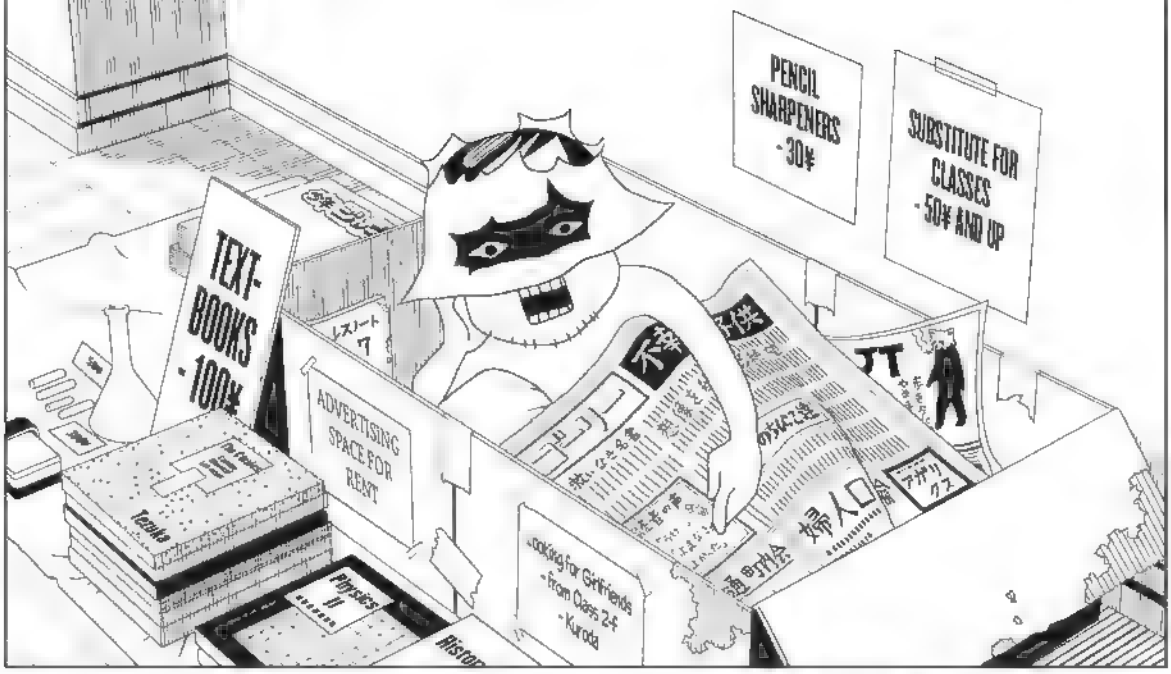

"WELL, THAT'S TRUE"?!

I DON'T THINK I'VE SEEN THE LIKES OF YOU BEFORE.
YEAH, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE IN THIS CLASS.

UNRESOLVED THINGS LIKE THESE REALLY DRIVE ME CRAZY!
イライライライラ
RRGG
SO, SHE SEES A GIRL IN CLASS THAT SHE HASN'T SEEN, AND THAT'S THAT?

I'M GOING TO CHECK HER OUT.
EEK!
HEY, CHAIRMAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

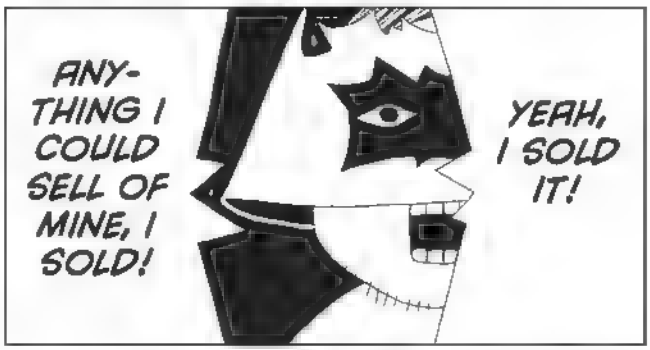
HIYA!
HIYA!
AH!
AH!
WHAT AM I DOING? IT'S THESE PEOPLE...
THEY'RE JAPANESE CHILDREN WHO'VE COME ALL THE WAY HOME TO ASIA BY CONTAINER.
OH MY, NOT AT ALL. THEY AREN'T ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.
AREN'T THEY *ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS?!*
LIES! ALL LIES!
MY NAME, MATSUSHITA.
MY NAME, HONDA.
MY NAME, OTOMO.
AS PROOF, THEY ALL HAVE JAPANESE NAMES. SEE?
MY FULL NAME IS...
BUT I DO HAVE A MIDDLE NAME.
EVEN THAT'S A PHONY NAME, RIGHT?!
MY NAME... TARÔ SEKIUTSU!
WAIT A SEC. WHY WOULD HER NAME BE ON THE ROSTER?
HMM...
YOU'RE TALKING NON-SENSE!
...TARÔ MARIA SEKIUTSU! SEE?

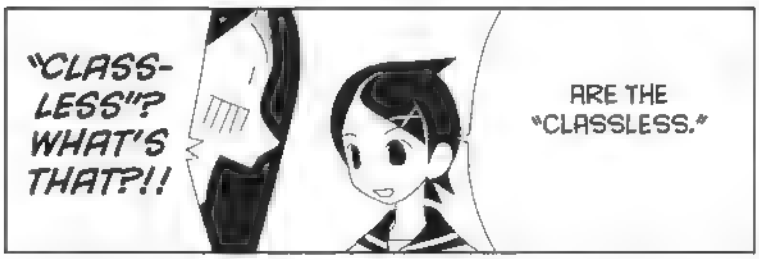

PENCIL SHARPENERS -30¥
SUBSTITUTE FOR CLASSES -50¥ AND UP
TEXT-BOOKS -100¥
ADVERTISING SPACE FOR RENT
Looking for Girlfriends - from Class 2-F - Kuroda

YOU WHAT?!
I BOUGHT AN ATTEN-DANCE NUMBER FROM THAT MAN.

FORMER?
THIS IS THE FORMER MR. SEKIUTSU.

EVEN MY PRIDE!!
MY AT-TENDANCE NUMBER, MY OR-GANS, MY "YOU-KNOW-WHAT."


ANY-THING I COULD SELL OF MINE, I SOLD!
YEAH, I SOLD IT!


"CLASS-LESS"? WHAT'S THAT?!!
ARE THE "CLASSLESS."

HEY YOU! SO YOU BOUGHT THAT ATTENDANCE NUMBER, HMMMM?
きっ
GLARE

...THOSE WHO HAVE NO CLASS TO RETURN TO IN JAPAN...
BECAUSE THE FORMER MR. SEKIUTSU SOLD HIS ATTENDANCE NUMBER...

SINCE IT WAS A FAIR AND PROPER TRADE, NO PROBLEM.
HUH?
THEN IT'S OKAY.
COOOOL! I FOUND A TV ON THE STREET!
RIGHT.
SO, IF EVERY-THING'S PROPER, THERE'S NO PROBLEM, RIGHT?
JAPAN VERY RICH, YEAH?
TV NOT GARBAGE. STILL CAN SEE IT.
YOU CAN'T GO PICKING UP GARBAGE LIKE THAT.
BABY?!
TV...FRIDGE... CAR...BABY...
MANY THINGS THROW OUT.
TAKE THAT BACK WHERE YOU FOUND IT!
CUDDLE CUDDLE すや すや

...MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I CAN'T LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE...
LOOKING AT THIS BABY...
LOO-LOO-LOO
LOO-LOO-LOO
CUDDLE
ほーっ
GRRRRRR
I SOMEHOW FEEL I'VE GOT TO PROTECT THIS BABY!!
WHAT "STICK-TO-IT-IVENESS FOR JUSTICE"?!
YOUR STICK-TO-ITIVENESS TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE!
THAT'S REALLY LIKE YOU, CHAIRMAN
I SOME-HOW FEEL I'VE GOT TO PROTECT HER.
WORRY WORRY
はらはら
HOWEVER, THE CHAIRMAN'S WORDS, "I FEEL I'VE GOT TO PROTECT HER," STRUCK A CHORD WITH HER CLASSMATES.
I MUST... THIS CHILD... PROTECT... I HAFTA... I'VE GOT TO....
I KINDA FEEL I'VE GOTTA PROTECT HER.
WORRY
はら
WORRY
はら

どっちゃり
LOADS OF STUFF
募金箱

OH, THAT'S GREAT.
LOTS OF STUFF PILE UP HERE NOW.

THANKS.
ちりこーん
KA-CHING

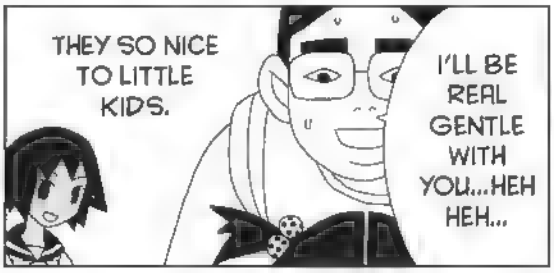
じーっ
STARE

THANKS.
ちりこーん
KA-CHING
WOULD DOLLARS BE OKAY?

THIS MAKES THE WHOLE CLASS ODA.
SO, ALL JAPANESE ARE PHILANTHROPISTS?
TALK ABOUT WEIRD!

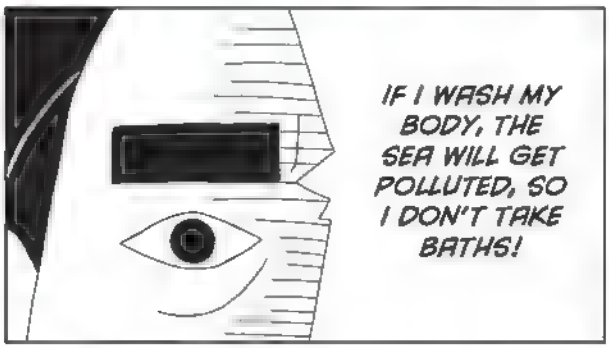
...SO VERY NICE.
EVERYONE IN THIS COUNTRY...

EVERY-ONE SO NICE.
THANK YOU.



THE KIND-NESS OF CON-SUMER FINANC-ING!!
親身
JUST LIKE CHILD-HOOD FRIENDS.
窓口
THEY PUT THEMSELVES IN THE CUSTOMER'S SHOES AND LEND OUT MONEY.

- KINDNESS OF DRESSING UP LITTLE DOGGIES
- KINDNESS OF PASSING THE BALL IN FRONT OF THE GOAL EVEN IF THE GOAL IS FREE
- KINDNESS OF PAYING TV RECEPTION FEES W THOUT WATCHING
- KINDNESS OF PAYING 1,000 YEN FOR BOOKS THAT COST 50 YEN TO PRODUCE
- KINDNESS OF LETTING A HUNGRY MAN EAT ONE'S FACE
- KINDNESS OF RESPECTING A DYING PERSON'S DIGNITY BY TRYING TO PULL OUT THE TUBE
- KINDNESS OF SAYING "WELL, LET'S LET IT GO THIS TIME" WHEN JAPAN'S TERRITORIAL WATERS ARE VIOLATED
- KINDNESS OF SUPERVISORS AND TEACHERS FOR LAUGHING AT BORING JOKES
- HALF OF BUFFERIN IS MADE OF KINDNESS
- KUDOKAN'S FANS SURE ARE NICE


IF I WASH MY BODY, THE SEA WILL GET POLLUTED, SO I DON'T TAKE BATHS!

IF I WASH MY CLOTHES, THE RIVER WILL GET POLLUTED, SO I DON'T WEAR CLOTHES!

MY FATHER WAS KIND TOO.

IF I WIPE MY ASS, THE FORESTS WILL GET CUT DOWN, SO I DON'T WIPE MY ASS!

NEVER MIND. BUT I REALLY NEED A BREAK.

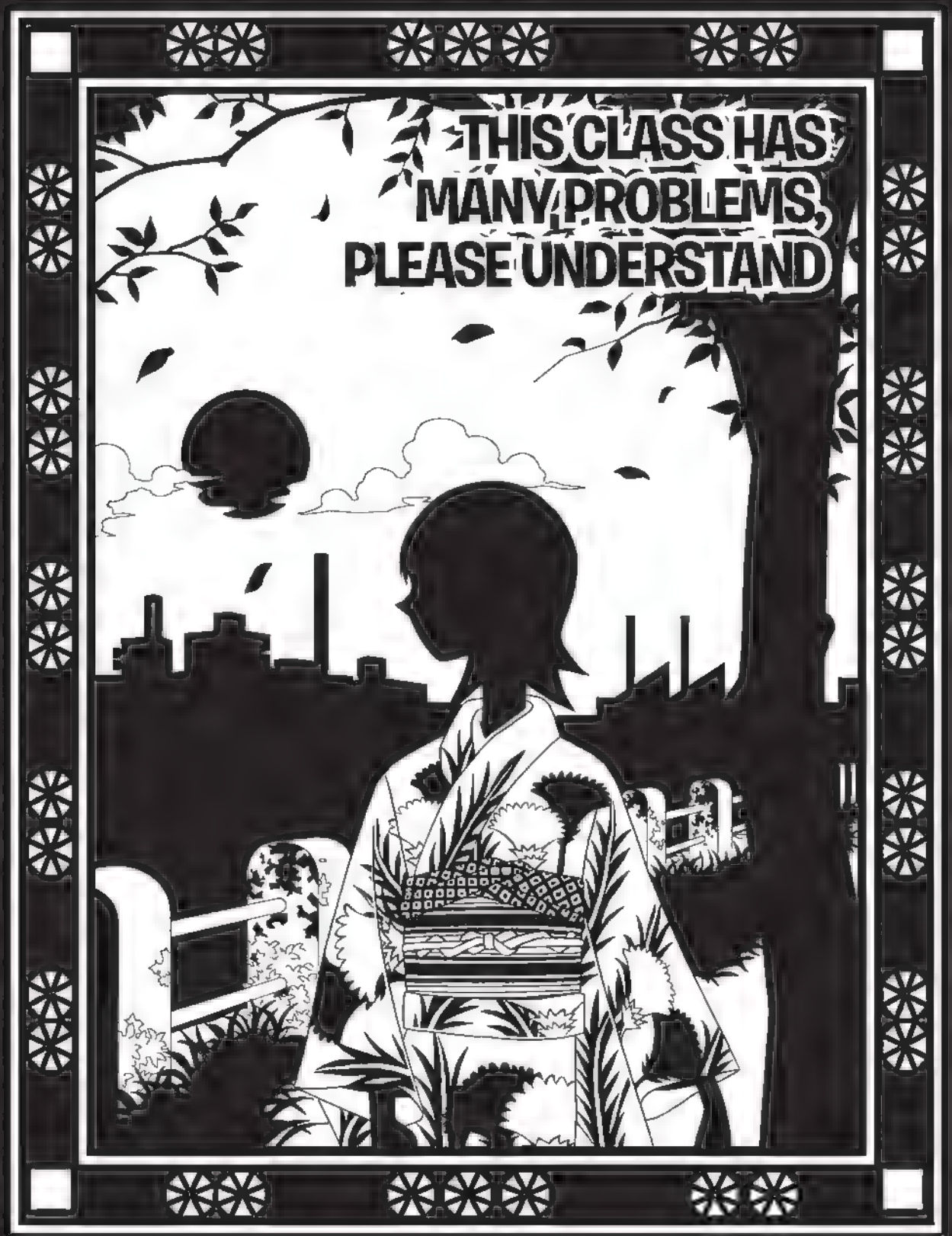
NATURAL?
OH MY. SUCH A NATURAL PROGRES-SION.
YOU! FOR OUR EARTH, STRIP OFF YOUR CLOTHES!!
FLASH

OH, ENOUGH AL-READY!
HE PUT A HIGH-VALUE INSURANCE POLICY ON HIMSELF FOR OUR FAMILY...

ATTENDANCE NO. 8

TARÔ MARIA SEKIUCHI

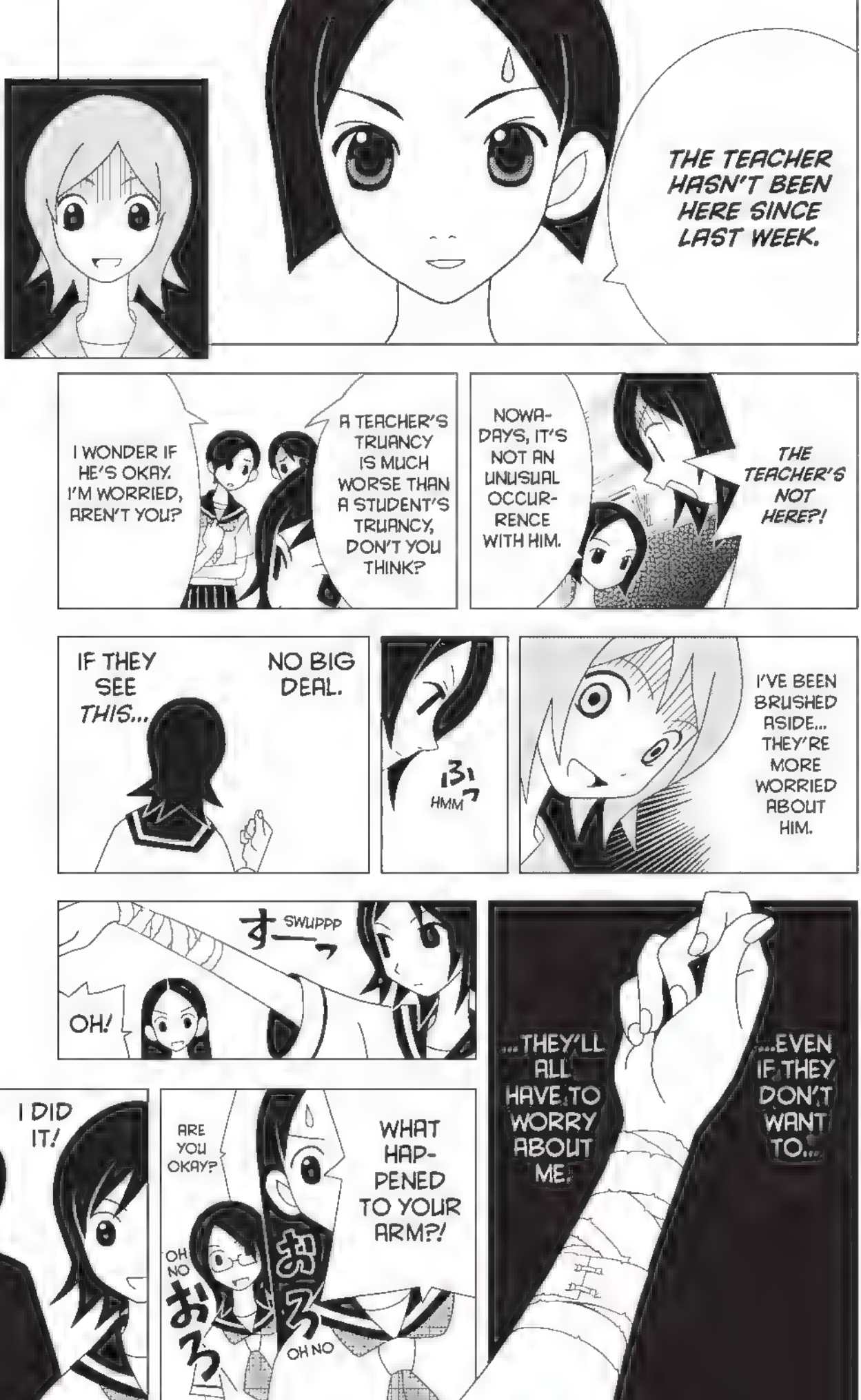
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT, REFUGEE GIRL



CHAPTER 10

I'M A TRUANT STUDENT... AN UTTERLY PITIFUL FIGURE.
BUT TODAY I'M TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO GO TO SCHOOL.
OF COURSE, I HAVE A REASON.
IT'S BECAUSE NOBODY HAS PITY ON ME.

DOESN'T ANYONE CARE ENOUGH TO VISIT ME AT HOME?!!
ガラッ
SHFF
?
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M A STUDENT OF THIS CLASS!
I AM A TRUANT STUDENT!!
CLASS ROSTER
ANYWAY, I'M SORRY. I'M NOT THE NORMAL TEACHER FOR THIS CLASS.
OH... I SEE.
BUT YOU'RE HERE AT SCHOOL.
TODAY I'M HERE PURELY BY CHANCE!
ER... WELL...
WELL, WHAT'S THE TEACHER DOING, ANYHOW?


THE TEACHER HASN'T BEEN HERE SINCE LAST WEEK.
I WONDER IF HE'S OKAY. I'M WORRIED, AREN'T YOU?
A TEACHER'S TRUANCY IS MUCH WORSE THAN A STUDENT'S TRUANCY, DON'T YOU THINK?
NOWA-DAYS, IT'S NOT AN UNUSUAL OCCUR-RENCE WITH HIM.
THE TEACHER'S NOT HERE?!
IF THEY SEE THIS...
NO BIG DEAL.
HMM
I'VE BEEN BRUSHED ASIDE... THEY'RE MORE WORRIED ABOUT HIM.
すー
SWUPPP
OH!
...THEY'LL ALL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
...EVEN IF THEY DON'T WANT TO...
I DID IT!
ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT HAP-PENED TO YOUR ARM?!
おろ
OH NO
おろ
OH NO

I FELL. THAT'S ALL.
コトッ
THUMP
I'M FINE.

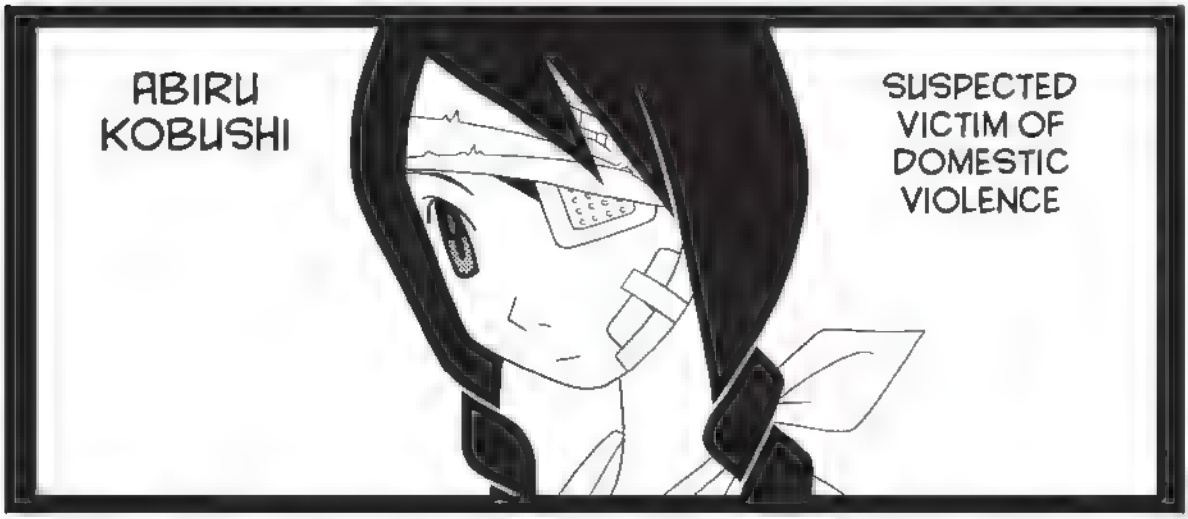
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?!

I HEAR RUMORS THAT HER FATHER ABUSES HER. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE...
WHISPER WHISPER
ひそ ひそ
YOU DON'T GET INJURIES LIKE THAT BY FALLING.

WORRIED...

ガーン
BOINK
GOSH, I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER.

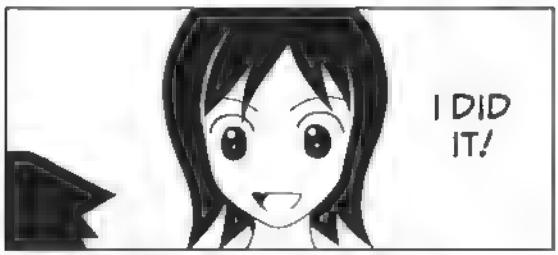
ONCE AGAIN, I'VE BEEN BRUSHED ASIDE, AND THEY WORRY ABOUT HER!


ABIRU KOBUSHI
SUSPECTED VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

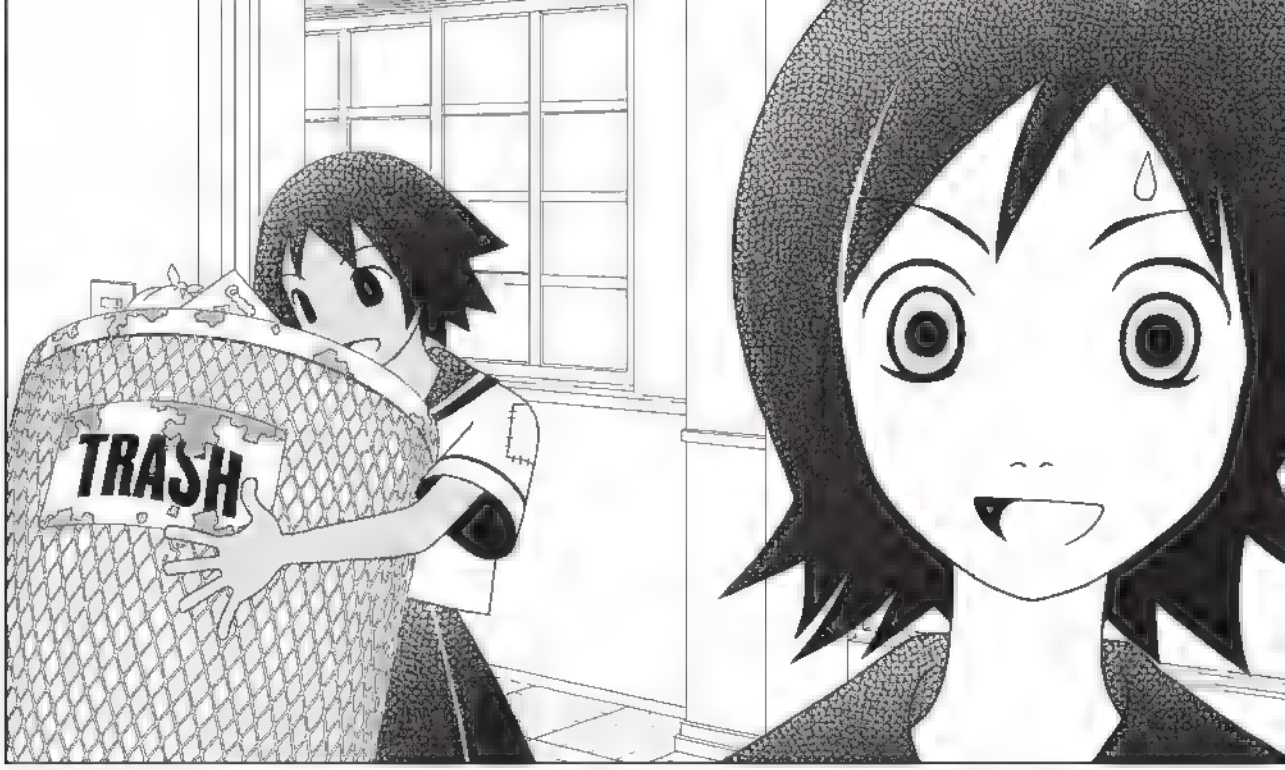
...BECAUSE OF A MUCH MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM.
I HAVEN'T BEEN COMING TO SCHOOL...

LATELY, WE HEAR LOTS ABOUT CHILD ABUSE. IT'S NOTHING UNUSUAL.
HA HA HA...

YOU'VE REALLY SUFFERED BECAUSE OF YOUR POVERTY.
GLANCE
ちらっ


I DID IT!

WE'VE BEEN CONSTANTLY MOVING FROM PLACE TO PLACE— ALL CRAMPED EIGHT-BY-TEN-FOOT APARTMENTS. IT'S ROUGH, SO I JUST COULDN'T GET MYSELF TO GO TO SCHOOL.
MY DAD'S BUSINESS FAILED, AND WE LOST OUR HOME. WE'VE BEEN FLEEING FROM DEBT COLLECTORS.


TRASH

YOU CANNOT DIE FROM HUNGER.
JAPAN RICH. FOOD THROWN ON GROUND.

GRRRUMB..!
GRRRUMB!
BUT I'M HUNGRY.

BUT YOU CAN'T JUST EAT STUFF OFF THE GROUND!

...DO YOU KNOW WHICH ONE YOU CAN EAT?
NOW, BETWEEN THIS MUSHROOM AND THAT MUSHROOM...

BOTH HAVE POISON. YOU CAN'T EAT.
UMMM... NO... WHICH ONE?

THESE MUSHROOMS GROW IN MY COUNTRY.

BUT I ATE THEM.
IF I NO EAT THEM, I WOULD HAVE DIED.
I JUST SORRY FOR THE TWO PEOPLE WHO ATE THEM WITH ME.
ENOUGH ALREADY!

TARÔ MARIA SEKIUCHI
(HER JAPANESE NAME)
REFUGEE GIRL (ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT)

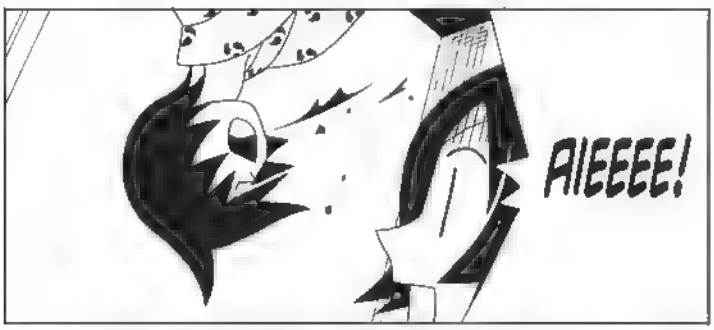
...I'LL HAVE TO PLAY MY LAST HAND.
FINE. IF YOU'RE GOING TO IGNORE ME LIKE THAT...

ONCE AGAIN, I'VE BEEN BRUSHED ASIDE, AND THEY WORRY ABOUT HER!
SHE WORRIES ME.

I DID IT!
SWING

DON'T!!
NOOOOO!

I THINK I'LL KILL MYSELF.
OHHH...


AIEEEE!

DOING
EEEK!
BANG

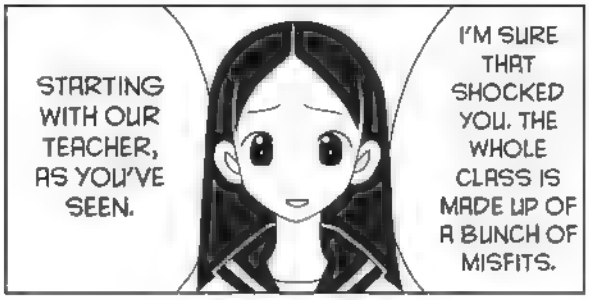
OH. SO THAT'S WHERE YOU'VE BEEN, TEACHER.
WH-WHAT THE... WHAT THE...?!
SWINGGG

EEEK! HIS EYES MET MINE!

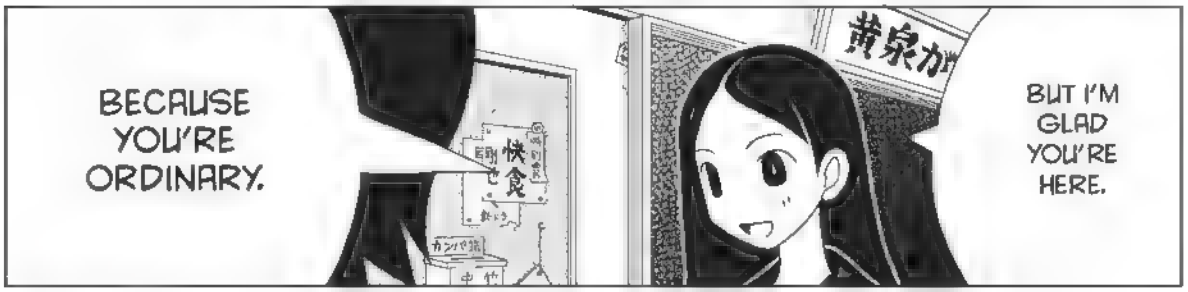
GLANCE

HE'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS. YOU DON'T NEED TO GET TOO UPSET.
HE'S COMMIT-TING SUICIDE ?!

IN CHARGE OF CLASS 2-F
SUPER-NEGATIVE TEACHER
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI


STARTING WITH OUR TEACHER, AS YOU'VE SEEN.
I'M SURE THAT SHOCKED YOU. THE WHOLE CLASS IS MADE UP OF A BUNCH OF MISFITS.

H-H-HOME-ROOM TEACHER?!
HE'S OUR HOMEROOM TEACHER.

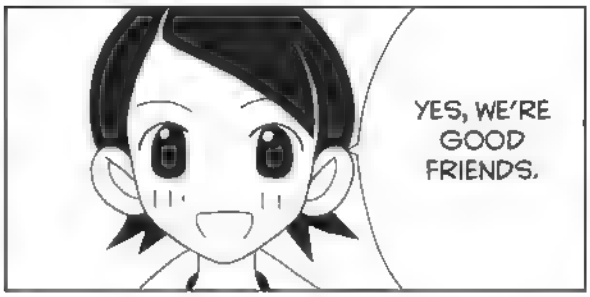

BECAUSE YOU'RE ORDINARY.
BUT I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

ORDINARY?!

"ORDINARY"... A WORD THAT, BY NO MEANS, IS USED IN A GOOD SENSE.

ORDINARY...
ORDINARY...
ORDINARY...
ORDINARY...

I SEE YOU'VE MADE SOME FRIENDS.
OH, AN-CHAN, HOW NICE.


YES, WE'RE GOOD FRIENDS.

ARE YOU GOOD FRIENDS WITH MIKA-CHAN?

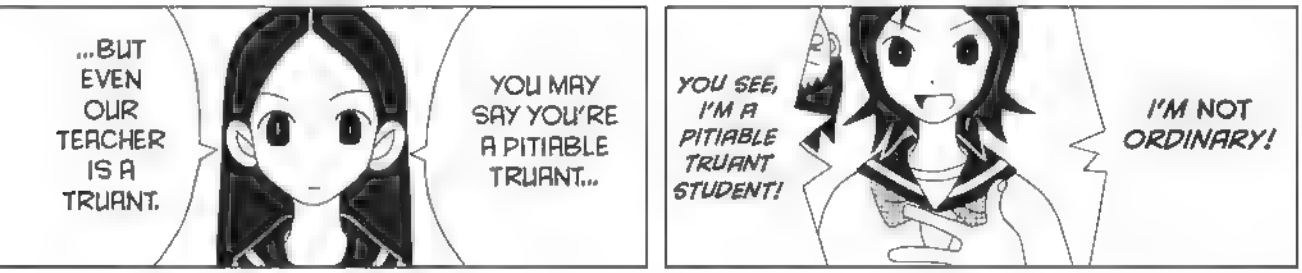
YES, WE'RE GOOD FRIENDS.

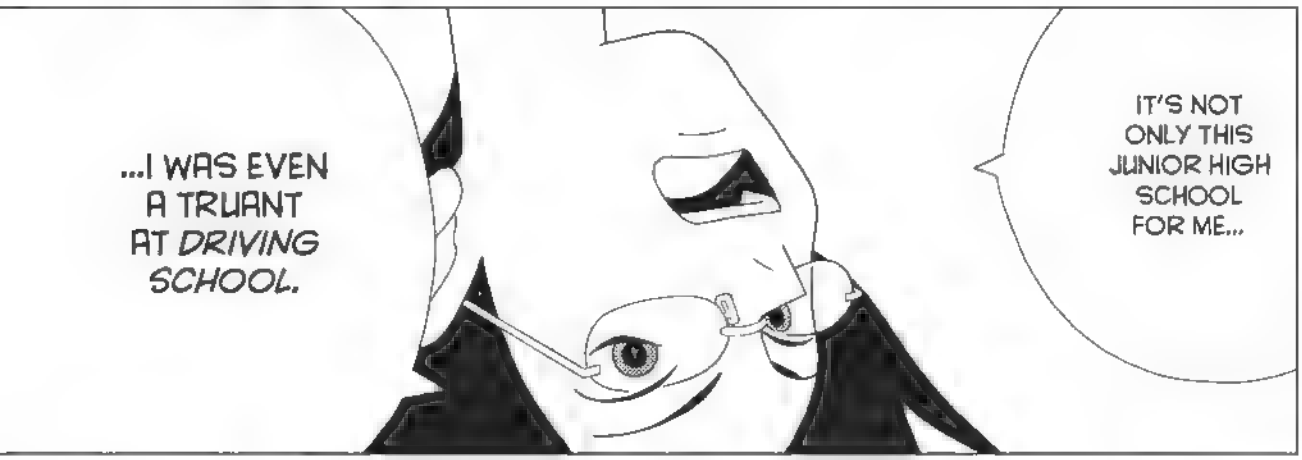
AND WHAT ABOUT WITH KENTA-KUN?

SHE'S ORDINARY.

AND WHAT ABOUT NAMI-CHAN?

IT'S AN ORDINARY JOB.
IT'S ORDINARY.
YOUNG GANGAN
IS THAT MANGA ANY GOOD?
SHE'S ORDINARY.
IS HIS GIRLFRIEND CUTE?
"ORDINARY"...A WORD THAT BY NO MEANS AT ALL IS USED IN A GOOD SENSE!!
ズガビーン
BOINNGG
• ALL OTHER TRAINS PASS THE ORDINARY TRAIN.
• THE ORDINARY PAPER FAX IS, IF ANYTHING, LESS CONVENIENT.
• ORDINARY COURSES IN VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS


...BUT EVEN OUR TEACHER IS A TRUANT.
YOU MAY SAY YOU'RE A PITIABLE TRUANT...
YOU SEE, I'M A PITIABLE TRUANT STUDENT!
I'M NOT ORDINARY!

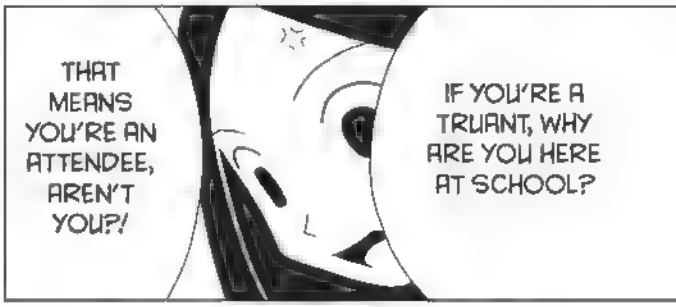

...I WAS EVEN A TRUANT AT DRIVING SCHOOL.
IT'S NOT ONLY THIS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL FOR ME...

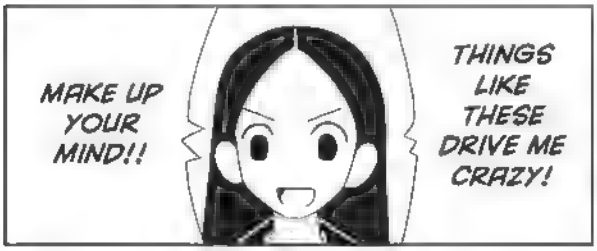
NO MATTER HOW DANGEROUS THESE DRIVERS ARE, SOMEHOW OR ANOTHER, THEY PASS DRIVING SCHOOL, RIGHT?
YEAH, IF ANYTHING, THOSE GUYS WON'T REPEAT THE COURSE.

DRIVING SCHOOL ?!

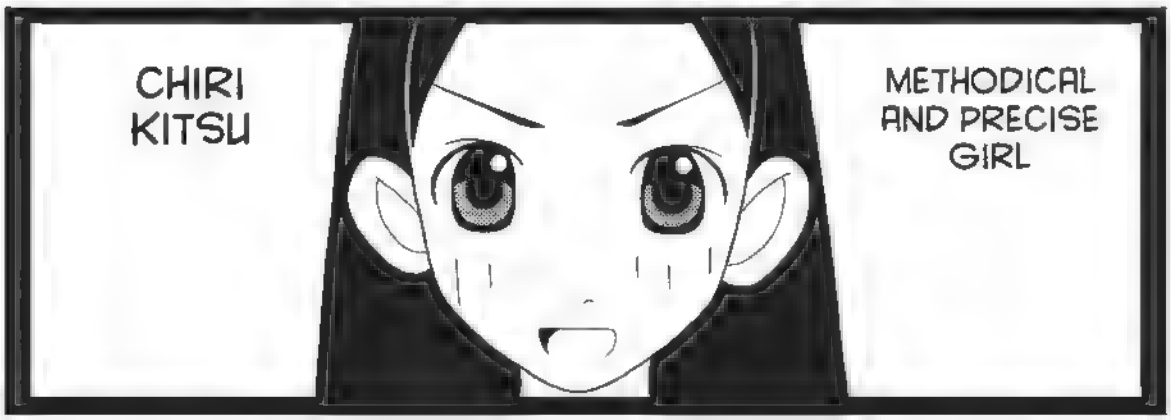
IF YOU'RE AN ORDINARY TRUANT, IT'S NOT SUCH A BIG DEAL.
IN FACT, YOUR WISHY-WASHY ATTITUDE DRIVES ME CRAZY!
BY THE WAY, FUJIYOSHI-SAN'S OLDER BROTHER IS A TRUANT AT THE MOMOGI ANIMATION SCHOOL.
DON'T TALK ABOUT THAT!
IT MUST BE INCREDIBLY DISTRESS-ING.

ERR... UM... WELL...
EITHER DON'T CALL YOURSELF AN ATTENDING STUDENT, OR DON'T BOTHER COMING TO SCHOOL. MAKE UP YOUR MIND!


IF YOU'RE A TRUANT, WHY ARE YOU HERE AT SCHOOL?
THAT MEANS YOU'RE AN ATTENDEE, AREN'T YOU?!


MAKE UP YOUR MIND!!
THINGS LIKE THESE DRIVE ME CRAZY!

SINCE YOU'RE HERE AT SCHOOL, YOU'RE AN ATTENDEE, RIGHT?
YOU'RE AN ATTENDING STUDENT, AREN'T YOU?!


CHIRI KITSU
METHODICAL AND PRECISE GIRL

I'M GLAD YOU'RE ORDINARY.
IT'S JUST THAT THIS CLASS...
ぱんぱん PAT PAT

YOU'RE A STUDENT OF THIS CLASS, TOO?

CLASS 2-F HOMEROOM TEACHER: NOZOMU ITOSHIKI
IT'S THE CLASS OF DESPAIR, SO TO SPEAK.
...HAS THIRTY-ONE...NO... THIRTY-TWO HOPELESS STUDENTS!!
17. SHIMI ITSU
Head of the Tea Ceremony Club
22. MACHI TSUMETSUKI
18.
20.
16.
8. TARA SENJICHI

THOSE ARE JUST COFFEE STAINS.
DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT THINKING ABOUT THEM.
エホッ KOFF
BY THE WAY, THE PART THAT'S HIDDEN IS DUE TO MY VOMITING BLOOD...

MERU OTONASHI
POISON EMAIL GIRL
MAIL めるめる
MAIL

KAERE KIMURA
SPLIT-PERSONALITY GIRL

COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE ARE LOTS OF ODD CHARACTERS AROUND HERE.

THAT GIRL THERE...
カラッ SHFF

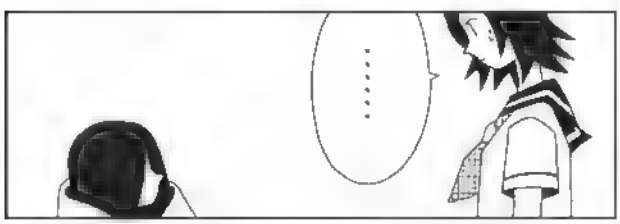
COME WITH ME!
がしっ GRAB
ひらっ FWIP
BEING A TRUANT'S FAR BETTER.

...IS A SIT-IN!

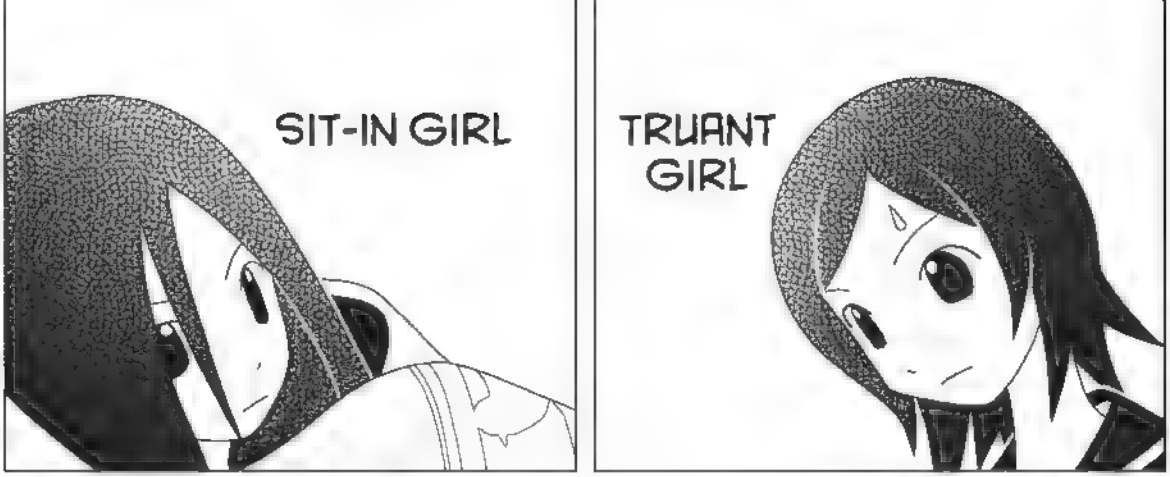
SEN-SE...
A SIT-IN'S MUCH MORE OF A NUISANCE THAN A TRUANT!

A SIT-IN?

AND SHE REFUSES TO LEAVE.
SHE'S CONFINED HERSELF IN THIS SCHOOL FOR A LONG TIME.

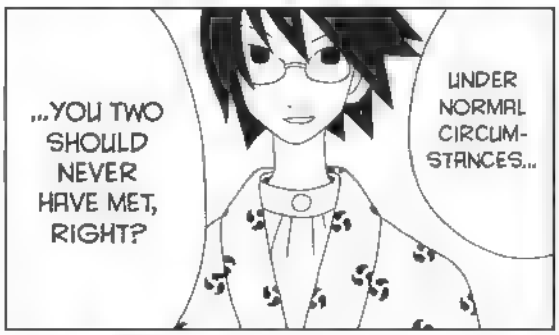

.....

KIRI KOMORI
SCHOOL NON-ATTENDEE *HIKIKOMORI* GIRL


SIT-IN GIRL
TRUANT GIRL

THE TWO—WHO SHOULD NOT HAVE MET—MEET

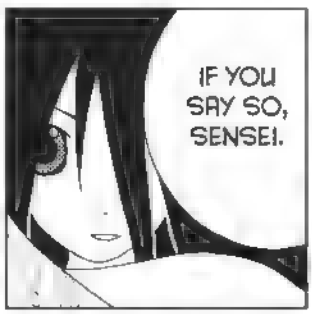
BUT DON'T GO STIRRING THINGS UP LIKE IN A HITONARI TSUJI NOVEL!
YOU MET BECAUSE YOU CAME TO SCHOOL!


...YOU TWO SHOULD NEVER HAVE MET, RIGHT?
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUM-STANCES...

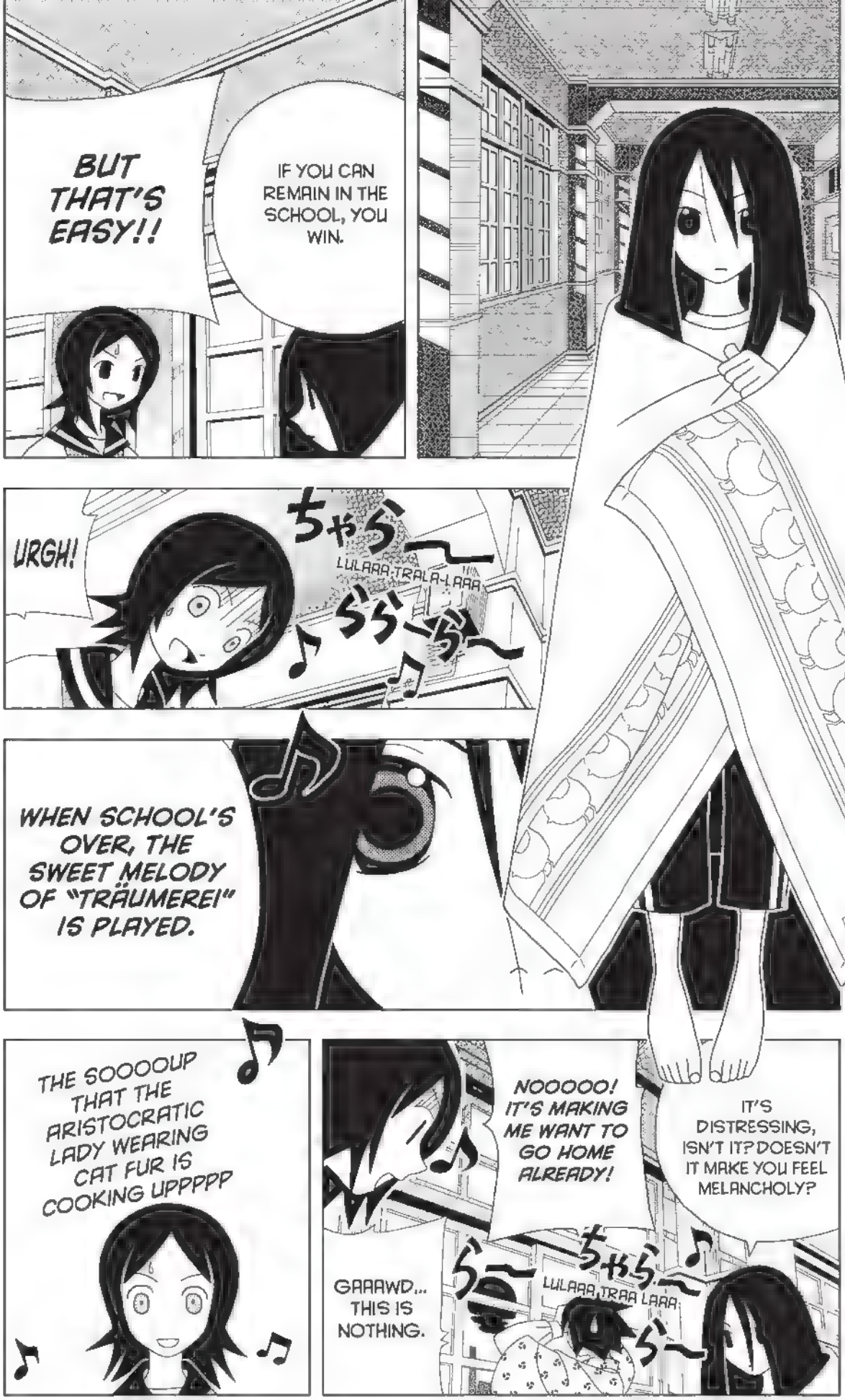
SHE "JUST" DOESN'T GO HOME?

TRUANCY'S A MUCH BIGGER PROBLEM IN SOCIETY!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, A SIT-IN?! SHE JUST DOESN'T GO HOME. THAT'S NO BIG DEAL!

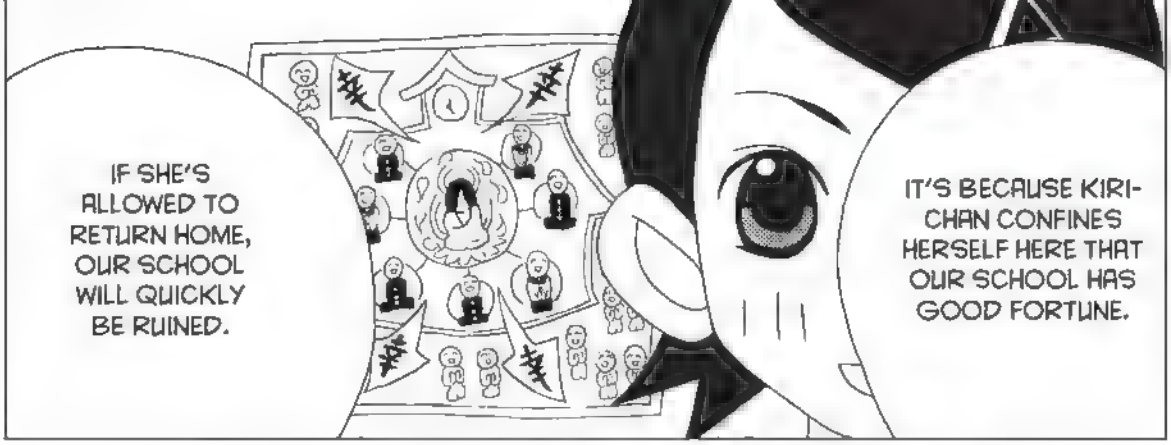
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD HANDLE BEING A SIT-IN?


IF YOU SAY SO, SENSEI.

KIRI-SAN, GIVE HER A LESSON ON HOW HARD IT IS TO BE A SIT-IN.


BUT THAT'S EASY!!
IF YOU CAN REMAIN IN THE SCHOOL, YOU WIN.
URGH!
ちゃら～
LULAAA-TRALA-LAAA
ら～ら～
WHEN SCHOOL'S OVER, THE SWEET MELODY OF "TRÄUMEREI" IS PLAYED.
THE SOOOOUP THAT THE ARISTOCRATIC LADY WEARING CAT FUR IS COOKING UPPPPP
NOOOOO! IT'S MAKING ME WANT TO GO HOME ALREADY!
IT'S DISTRESSING, ISN'T IT? DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU FEEL MELANCHOLY?
GAAAWD... THIS IS NOTHING.
ちゃら～
LULAAA-TRAA LAAA
ら～

AGAIN HE HEARD HIS STOMACH RUMBLE...
IT'S FREAKING ME OUT! IT'S FREAKING ME OUT!
WHAT'S WITH THESE GUT-WRENCHING LYRICS?!
THE SOUP THAT THE ARISTOCRATIC LADY WEARING DOG FUR IS COOKING UPPPPP
DID "TRÄUMEREI" EVER HAVE LYRICS?
YOU CAN'T JUST GO 'ROUND MAKING UP YOUR OWN WORDS TO "TRÄUMEREI"!!
MR. HARDWARE MAN, YOU SOLD A SCOOPER...
THE NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE THE OLD LADYYY... PASSED AWAYYY...
KAFUKA FUURA
(PEN NAME)
SUPER-POSITIVE GIRL
SHE'S A ZASHIKI-WARASHI— A GOOD LUCK SPIRIT!
KIRI-CHAN'S NOT A HIKIKOMORI.
YOU'RE A FRIEND OF THIS HIKIKOMORI?
KIRI-CHAN.
HEY.


IF SHE'S ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME, OUR SCHOOL WILL QUICKLY BE RUINED.
IT'S BECAUSE KIRI-CHAN CONFINES HERSELF HERE THAT OUR SCHOOL HAS GOOD FORTUNE.

WH-WHAT'S THIS GIRL TALKING ABOUT?
KIRI-CHAN'S AN OFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE AJZA (ALL JAPAN ZASHIKI-WARASHI ALLIANCE). SHE'S A PROPER HOUSE SPIRIT, SO YOU NEEDN'T WORRY.

WHAT?
IN FACT, THE HOME THAT KIRI-CHAN LEFT UNFORTUNATELY DID BECOME RUINED.

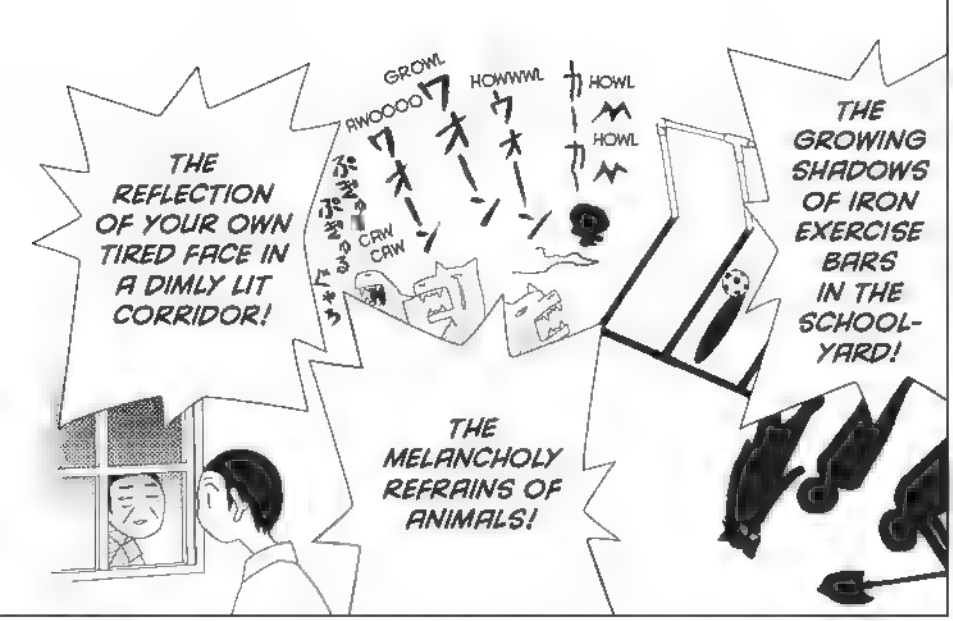
SNIFF
SNIFF
WAFT
MMM...

WH-WHAT'S THIS?...
HFF
HFF

WELL, SEE YOU LATER.
THIS IS GETTING TOO COM-PLICATED...

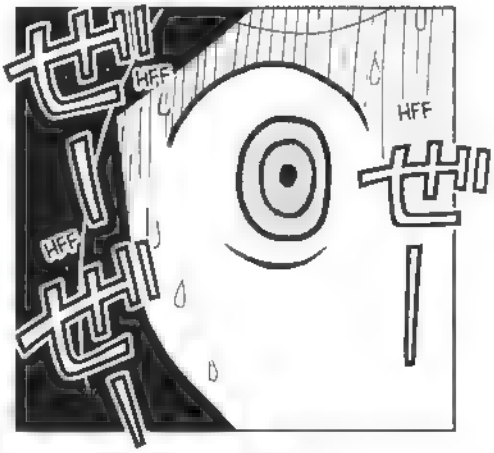
...THE EARLY EVENING AROMA OF CURRY SAUCE WAFTING OVER FROM THE NEIGHBORING HOUSES.

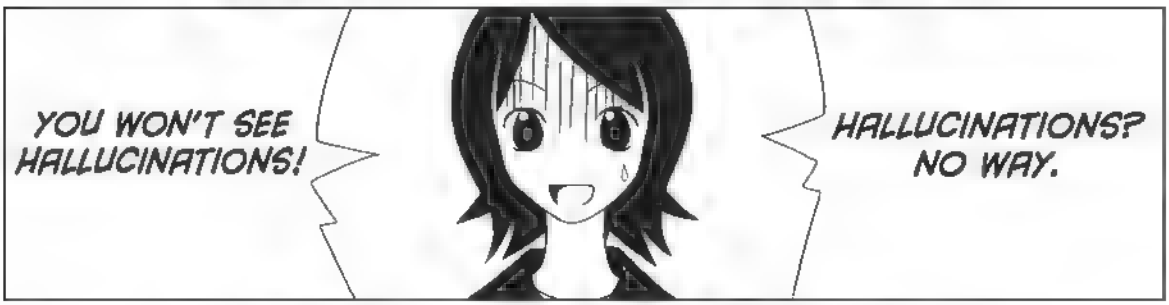
THIS... THIS IS...


THE REFLECTION OF YOUR OWN TIRED FACE IN A DIMLY LIT CORRIDOR!
GROWL
AWOOOO
ワオーン
ワオーン
HOWWWL
ウォーン
カーカー
HOWL
HOWL
CAW CAW
THE MELANCHOLY REFRAINS OF ANIMALS!
THE GROWING SHADOWS OF IRON EXERCISE BARS IN THE SCHOOL-YARD!

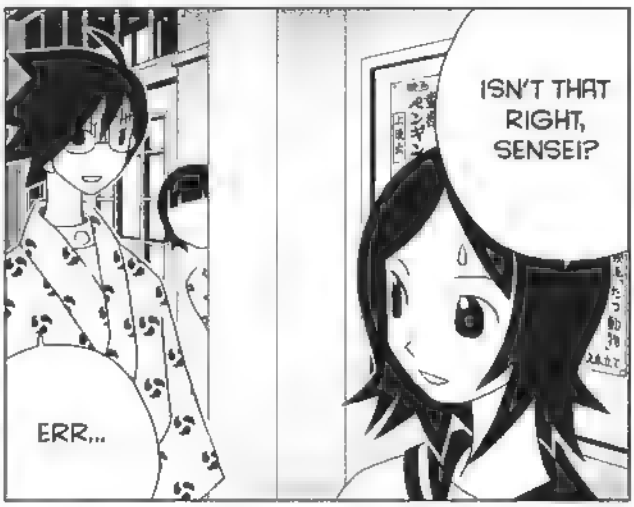
MOMMYYYY!
おかーさーん
NNH... NNNH...

WITHIN THE DARK-ENED CONFINES OF THIS SCHOOL, DOUBTS AND SUSPICIONS WILL START TO GIVE YOU HALLUCINATIONS.
IF YOU STAY, IT'LL GET FAR WORSE.
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF. YOU CAN GO HOME, YOU KNOW.


HFF
HFF
HFF


YOU WON'T SEE HALLUCINATIONS!
HALLUCINATIONS? NO WAY.

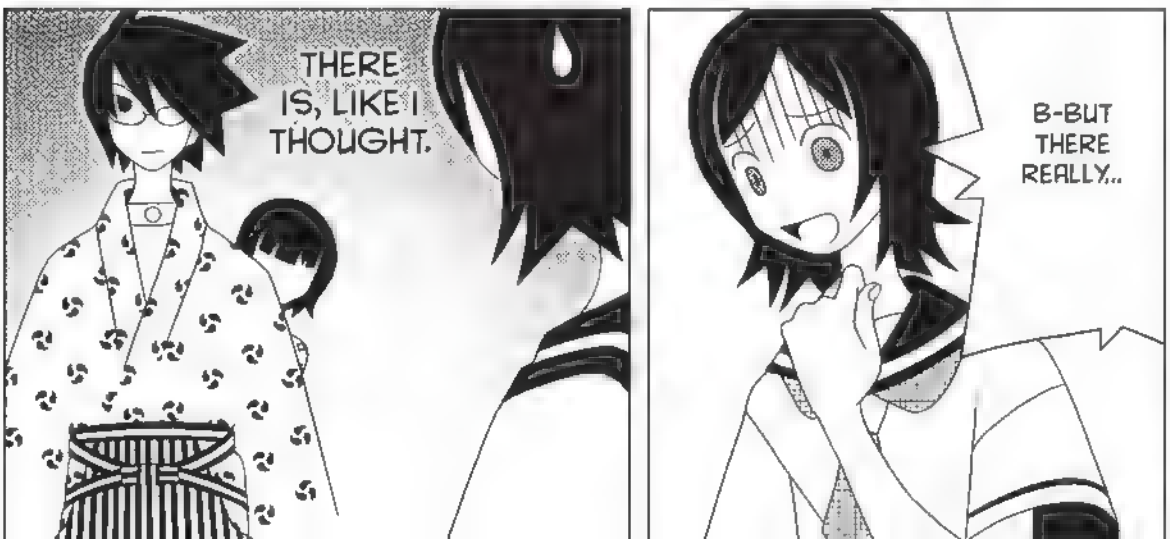
EEK!


ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SENSEI?
ERR...

しゅるっ
SFOOOSH
ぽん

HUH?
THERE'S SOME-ONE BEHIND YOU!

D-DON'T TALK SUCH CREEPY NONSENSE!
THERE'S NO ONE THERE!


THERE IS, LIKE I THOUGHT.
B-BUT THERE REALLY...

SUPER-
EXTREME
LOVE
STALKER
GIRL
MATOI
TSUNETSUKI

CAN'T BE...
A GHOST...

SEE WHO?
THERE'S NO
ONE HERE,
OBVIOUSLY!
SWIP
WHY CAN'T
YOU SEE
HER?!
SHFt

BEING A SIT-
IN'S A LOT
SCARIER THAN
I'D THOUGHT.
IT'S DARK.
IT'S
SCARY. I
WANT TO
GO HOME.

WOOZY
UH...EXCUSE
ME. I NEED
SOME FRESH
AIR.

EEEEK
SFOOOSH
HEY. YOU'LL
BE FINE.
THERE'S
NOTHING TO
BE SCARED
OF!

HUH?
LOOK!
BABIES.

THAT'S
BECAUSE
WE'RE NOT
ALONE IN
THIS
DARKNESS.

AGGH!
もわん
FOOM
わん
OOM
わん
OOM
もわん
FOOM
OOM
もわん
おぎゃー
WAAAAH
おぎゃー
WAAAAH
BABIES' LEGS COMING OUT OF THE CEILING!
MOMMYYYY!
おぎゃ
WAAAAH
I'M NOT YOUR MOTHER!
おぎゃ
WAAAAH
おぎゃ
WAAAAH
おぎゃ
WAAAAH
おぎゃー
WAAAAH
NOOO! I'M NOT YOUR MOTHER!
NAMI HITOU
ORDINARY GIRL
いやあああ
NOOOOO!!!

ATTENDANCE LIST
CLASS 2-F

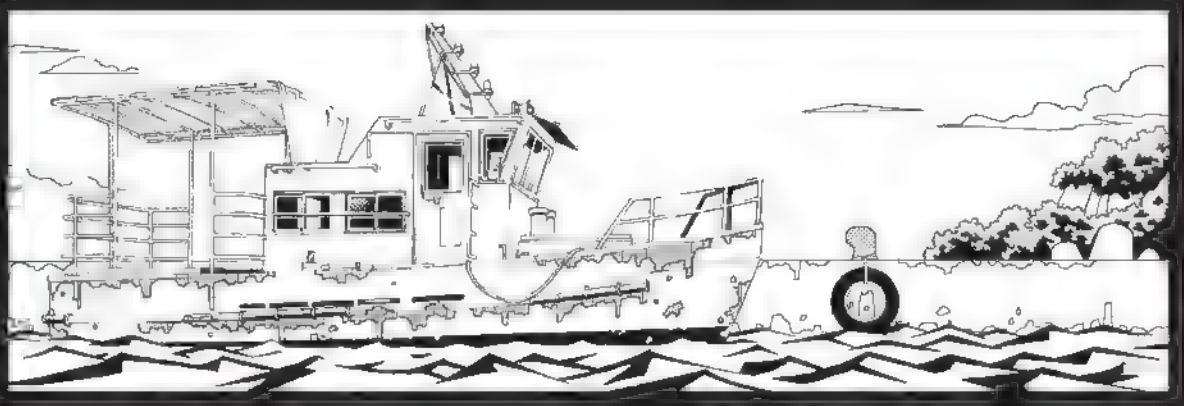
ATTENDANCE NO. 28

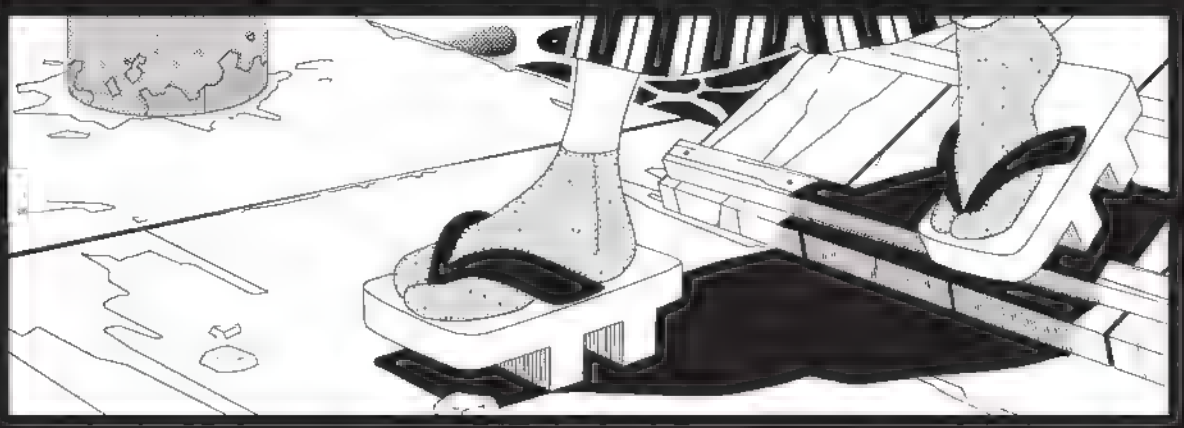
NAMI HITOU

ORDINARY GIRL

SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

"HOPE IS LIKE A TREASURE THAT IS TOO MUCH FOR ONE PERSON TO HOLD ALONE."
—COUNT POROROCA



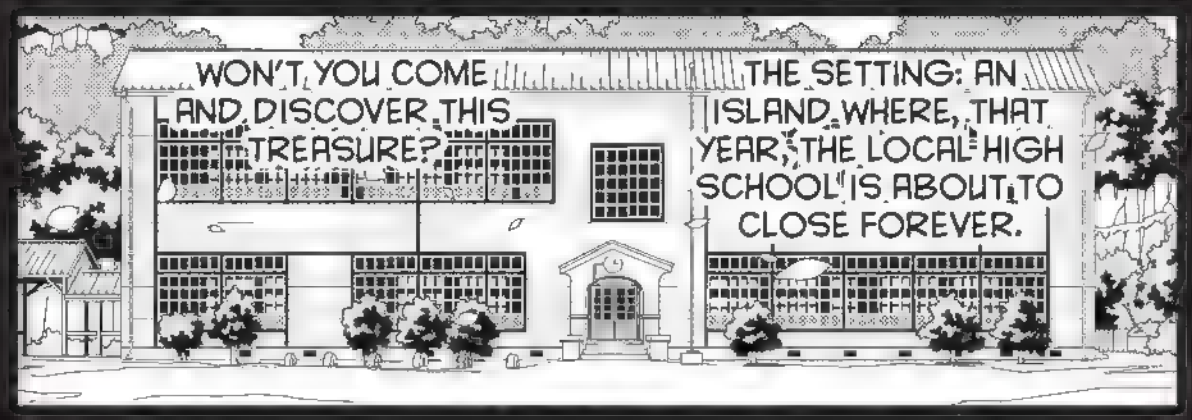


Preview

SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

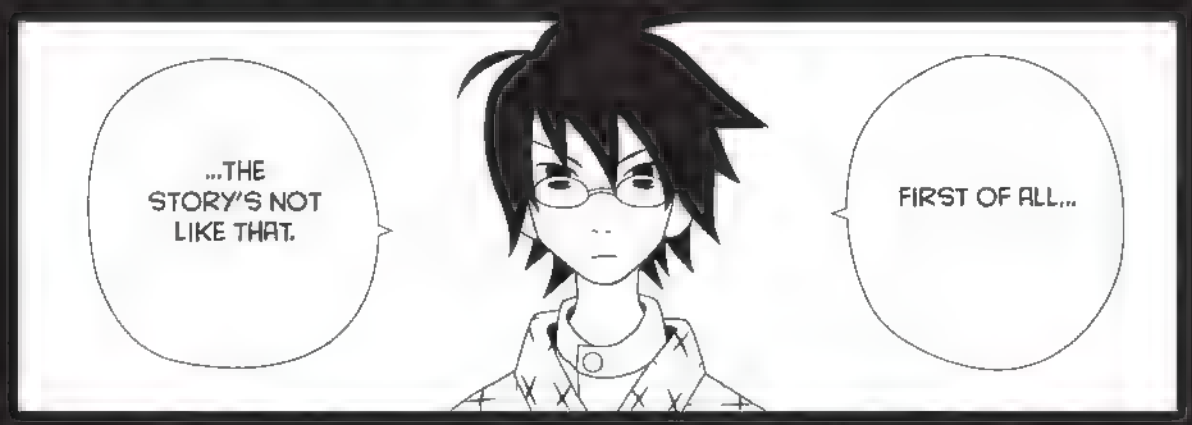
Koji Kumeta

A TEACHER IN DESPAIR ABOUT LIFE.
CHILDREN ON AN ISLAND WHO CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT HOPE.
THIS IS THE ULTIMATE HUMAN DRAMA THAT INTERWEAVES THE LIVES OF ONE TEACHER AND THREE-POINT-ONE STUDENTS.


WON'T YOU COME AND DISCOVER THIS TREASURE?
THE SETTING: AN ISLAND WHERE, THAT YEAR, THE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL IS ABOUT TO CLOSE FOREVER.

THIS SPRING'S GREATEST, MOVING MASTERPIECE IN TWO COMBINED BOOKS.

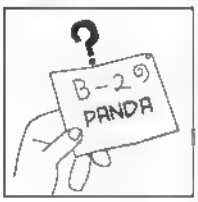
THE DRAMA IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!



THIS PREVIEW APPEARED IN 2005 IN *WEEKLY SHÔNEN MAGAZINE* #21, BEFORE *SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI* BEGAN PUBLICATION.

PAPER BLOGS

PREAMBLE

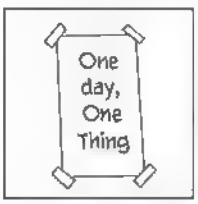


LUCKILY, I WAS SOMEHOW PICKED UP AT OTOWA (WHERE THE PUBLISHER KODANSHA IS LOCATED). EIGHT MONTHS HAVE GONE BY. WHEN YOU HEAR ABOUT THE LIFE OF A BATTERY, IT ALL SOUNDS GOOD, BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRY TO CHARGE A WORN-OUT BATTERY, IT DOESN'T DO MUCH GOOD. MY RICKETY CARTOON ROBOT BATTERY DOESN'T HAVE MUCH POWER LEFT IN IT. EIGHT MONTHS. HARDLY HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF THAT TIME. OR RATHER, THERE'S NOT MUCH TO REMEMBER THAT'D BE WORTH TALKING ABOUT TO OTHERS. NOT ONE THING. THERE WAS A PUZZLING MEMO I FOUND IN A COAT I WAS WEARING OVER THE WINTER, "B-2@PANDA." I COULDN'T FOR THE LIFE OF ME FIGURE OUT WHAT THAT WAS. THE NEXT DAY, I REMEMBERED. IT WAS A MEMO TO REMIND ME WHERE I PUT MY CAR IN THE PARKING LOT. I FELT LIKE DYING. THEN, FROM ANOTHER JACKET, WAS ANOTHER MEMO. (IT SAID "A 7-CM STICK, BY THE THIRD..."). I DON'T THINK I'LL GET MYSELF TO TRY TO REMEMBER WHAT THAT WAS.

NEGATIVE

FOR SOME REASON, I FEEL THAT READERS ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT I'M NOT DEAD. A LONGER LIFE MEANS MORE DISGRACE. "PLAN TO DIE BEFORE THE AGE OF FORTY" IS A WELL-KNOWN PASSAGE IN AN ESSAY FROM *TSUREZUREGUSA (ESSAYS IN IDLENESS)*, BY THE AUTHOR KENKÔ YOSHIDA. I'M SAYING THAT FROM THIS POINT ON, MY LIFE HISTORY GETS THE FINAL COATING OF HUMILIATION. IT'S THE BEGINNING WHEREBY THE MORE I DRAW, THE GREATER THE SERIES OF HUMILIATIONS I'LL RECEIVE. INCIDENTALLY, THE AKASAKA SM CLUB (MANGA STREET) IS LOOKING FOR "S" PEOPLE. THE ENTRANCE FEE IS 410 YEN (INCLUDING TAX). THIS CLUB CAN CLOSE WITHOUT NOTICE ON ORDERS OF THE AUTHORITIES. JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT IN ADVANCE.

POSITIVE



FOR EIGHT MONTHS, I TRIED TO MAKE SURE THAT I GOT OUTSIDE, SINCE IT'S NOT GOOD TO CONSTANTLY STAY AT HOME. BUT, SINCE I'M NOT USED TO GOING OUT, I COULD ONLY DO ONE THING A DAY. TODAY, I WENT TO THE BANK, SO THAT'S IT. TODAY, I WENT TO BIC CAMERA, SO I'M DONE. TODAY, I WENT OUT TO THROW OUT THE GARBAGE, SO THAT'S IT. IF I WENT TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE, I'D NEVER PICK UP MY LAUNDRY ON THE WAY HOME. ONE DAY, WHEN IT WAS EXTREMELY HOT, I STEPPED INTO THREE COFFEESHOPS ON MY WAY TO SHINJUKU STATION, WHICH IS A NINE-MINUTE WALK AWAY. THAT WAS JUST TO BE CHARMING. COME TO THINK OF IT, MY DAYS WERE BUSY AND FULFILLED.

RECLUSE

I THINK I'VE HAD PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO BECOME A *HIKIKOMORI*. IN THE SIXTH GRADE, ALL MY REPORT CARDS HAD THE REMARK "UNCOOPERATIVE" ON THEM. IT'S TRUE THAT WHEN THE CLASS WOULD GO TO THE PARK ON A FIELD TRIP, I WOULDN'T PLAY WITH THE OTHER KIDS' GROUPS, I WOULDN'T RIDE THE RIDES, I'D PLAY IN GAME ARCADES ALONE, SO I GUESS WHAT THE TEACHER SAID WAS TO BE EXPECTED. BUT EVEN I WANTED TO PLAY WITH OTHERS. WHEN KIDS WHO LIKED ONE ANOTHER GOT TOGETHER TO FORM A GROUP, I ENDED UP IN A GROUP WITH THE REJECTS AND OUTCASTS. IT WAS TOUGH BEING IN A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T LIKE ONE ANOTHER. OUT OF THE FOUR OF US, TWO WERE ALWAYS ABSENT. IT WAS JUST THE TWO OF US, S-KUN AND I, WHO WENT TO SCHOOL. TEACHER, PLEASE UNDERSTAND. I HAD MY REASONS.

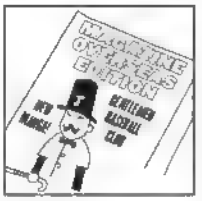
STALKER

WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, IN ADDITION TO PLAYING SPY GAMES, SECRETLY FOLLOWING GIRLS FROM OUR CLASS WAS POPULAR. YOU TAIL THE GIRL HOME, MAKING SURE YOU AREN'T DETECTED, AND ALWAYS MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE SURROUNDINGS. THE NEXT DAY, YOU'D ANNOUNCE YOUR FINDINGS TO THE TARGET. LIKE "YOU'VE GOT A BLACK DOG, RIGHT?" OR "YOUR ROOF IS RED," ETC. THE GIRL WOULD ANSWER, "HEY, HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT?," WHICH WAS SO HILARIOUS. ONE DAY, K-KUN, N-KUN, AND I DECIDED TO FOLLOW Y-SAN, WHO WAS A POPULAR GIRL IN SCHOOL. BUT Y-SAN HAD GREAT INSTINCTS AND FOUND OUT WHAT WE WERE DOING HALFWAY THROUGH OUR GAME. TO US GUYS, WHO WERE JUST CLOWNING AROUND, Y-SAN SAID, "ENOUGH ALREADY. WHAT'RE YOU DOING? AND TWO DAYS IN A ROW, TOO?" K-KUN AND N-KUN LOOKED REALLY PUZZLED. THAT'S RIGHT. I'D TAILED HER BY MYSELF FOR TWO DAYS. IF IT HAD HAPPENED TODAY, I'D BE ARRESTED.

ANIMALS

I WAS A GENTLE CHILD; THE KIND WHO'D EAT ANIMAL CRACKERS FROM THEIR TAILS. I EVEN ATE *TAIYAKI, HATO SABLE,* AND MUSHROOMS FROM THEIR TAILS. ONE DAY, MY DAD RETURNED FROM A BUSINESS TRIP TO AOMORI AND BROUGHT ME BACK SOME BADLY-SHAPED ANIMAL COOKIES; I COULDN'T TELL WHICH SIDE WAS THE HEAD AND WHICH WAS THE TAIL. SINCE I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO START, I ATE 'EM FROM THEIR BELLIES. THAT NIGHT, I CRIED. I CRIED BECAUSE I FELT I DID SOMETHING CRUEL. I WAS A KID THAT LOVED BENDING THE TABS ON THOSE PETIT PUDDING CUPS. NOW, I'VE GROWN INTO A MEAN ADULT WHO EATS MICKEY COOKIES BY THEIR EARS.

GO BACK TO YOUR COUNTRY



I CAN'T SAY THIS OUT LOUD, BUT *SHÔNEN MAGAZINE* HAS AN OVERSEAS EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT AND, AS TO BE EXPECTED, *SHÔNEN MAGAZINE*'S OF A HIGH QUALITY ARE BEING PRODUCED THERE. THE GROUP OF AUTHORS IN THE OVERSEAS GROUP ARE REALLY AMAZING, AND WHEN THEY RETURN TO JAPAN, WE'RE INEVITABLY SHUNTED FARTHER AND FARTHER INTO THE BACKGROUND. THE MOST POPULAR WORK FROM THE OVERSEAS GROUP IS "ALPS DETECTIVE ENO." IT'S A REALLY FUNNY HARD-ACTION STORY ABOUT CONFRONTATIONS WITH A CHEESE SMUGGLING ORGANIZATION, THE "MELTY SNOW CHEESE GANG." (I RECOMMEND IT.) AS FOR THE GAG COMICS, I HEAR THAT "MONMARUTORU-CHAN" IS GOING TO BE TURNED INTO AN ANIMATED FILM. THE NEW COMIC "WE'RE THE GENTLEMEN BASEBALL CLUB" IS NOW APPEARING SERIALLY BY POPULAR DEMAND. (THE FIRST STORY'S TITLE: "THE HIDDEN PRIZE IS... THE DEATH PENALTY!")

MAIL

I'M NOT THE KIND OF GUY WHO CARRIES A CELL PHONE WITH ME, SO I REALLY DON'T NEED ONE. THERE'S NOT MUCH THAT I'D WANT TO CONVEY THROUGH EMAILS, SO THE NECESSITY'S NOT QUITE THERE. SOME SAY IT'S STRANGE THAT I DON'T CARRY A CELL PHONE, BUT IT MAKES ME WANT TO ASK THEM IF THEY'D CARRY ALL THE CELL PHONE STRAPS IN THE HOUSE AROUND WITH THEM. WE'RE EVEN AT THE POINT OF NOT CARRYING PORTABLES, SO WE'RE MUTUALLY STRANGE. BY THE WAY, I DO ATTACH JUST THE CELL PHONE STRAP OF *NAYABASHI MANJU* ON MY BAG. I'M ALWAYS WORKING OUT OF THE HOUSE SO A REGULAR CORD PHONE IS PLENTY FOR ME. IT'D BE MORE CONVENIENT FOR ME IF THERE WEREN'T ANY PHONES AT ALL. SMOKE SIGNALS WOULD BE ENOUGH FOR CONTACTS WITH THE EDITOR. WHEN MY ORIGINAL BOOK IS FINISHED, A RED SMOKE SIGNAL GOES UP. WHEN IT IS ACCEPTED, A GREEN SMOKE SIGNAL GOES UP. IF YOU'RE CANCELING ME, PUT UP A BLACK SMOKE SIGNAL, OKAY? I ASK FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

PRECISION

EVEN I CAN'T STAND IT UNLESS THINGS ARE IN ORDER. MY LIFE PLANS ARE ALSO IN ORDER. THE OTHER DAY, I BOUGHT MY GRAVE. I'VE ALSO RECEIVED MY POSTHUMOUS BUDDHIST NAME IN ADVANCE. SOME OF YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW IT, BUT IT'S "MANGA INKURA YAMINOSUKE." ANYHOW, EXCUSE ME, BUT I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT MY NEXT LIFE. I'M THINKING OF APPLYING FOR THE HOP STEP AWARD FOR NEW MANGA ARTISTS. THE TITLE OF MY WORK'LL BE *CAT SAMURAI'S COMING*. OF COURSE, MY PEN NAME WOULD BE HOSHIYUME.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

I CAN'T SAY THIS OUT LOUD, BUT THIS IS AN ILLEGAL COMIC SERIES. IT DIDN'T PASS THE MAGAZINE INSPECTION INTO THE COUNTRY. KEEP THIS HUSH-HUSH TO THE EDITOR. DON'T TIP ME OFF. I'D BE FORCIBLY DEPORTED. WHEN I WAS DEPORTED, MY HOME WAS TAKEN OVER BY SOME OTHER PERSON SO, NOW, SOMEONE ELSE IS LIVING THERE. THE NAMEPLATE SAID "HIDA." I WONDER WHAT THE PERSON'S LIKE? MY PLACE IN THIS NEW COUNTRY IS SMALLER THAN MY LAST ONE. I'D LIKE TO LIVE HERE PERMANENTLY. ARE THE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY KIND?

ORDINARY

I THOUGHT I'D TRY TO BE NORMAL. LIKE THE STUDENTS OF THAT TIME, I TRIED TO BE PRETENTIOUS. I JOINED A PRETENTIOUS CIRCLE. TENNIS IN SUMMER, SKIING AND HOT SPRINGS IN WINTER—IT WAS PRETTY PRETENTIOUS. I HAD A LETTERMAN JACKET LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. ON THE BACK WAS MY NAME AND NUMBER. 07 * KUMEDA... I JUST DIDN'T CARE ANYMORE. BEFORE THE SUMMER, I STOPPED HANGING WITH THE CIRCLE. I'D THOUGHT I HADN'T CARED ABOUT THE DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN THE *D* AND THE *T*. THE OTHER DAY, THAT JACKET APPEARED. IT LOOKED AS IF THE LETTER *D* HAD BEEN SCRAPED WITH MY NAILS. SURE ENOUGH, I'D BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THAT ALL ALONG.

SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

CURRENT CHARGES FROM THIS ISSUE

LETTER OF ACCUSATION

PLAINTIFF:
OCCUPATION: STUDENT
NAME: KAERE KIMURA

DEFENDANT:
OCCUPATION: STUDENT
NAME: MERU OTONASHI

DATE: JUNE 8
ATTN: CHIEF OF POLICE

- PURPOSE OF ACCUSATION
THE ACTS BY THE DEFENDANT AS STATED BELOW ARE CONSIDERED TO FALL UNDER CRIMINAL LAW, ARTICLE 231 (CRIME OF INSULT), AND THIS COMPLAINT IS MADE TO PURSUE SEVERE PUNISHMENT TO BE HANDED OUT TO THE DEFENDANT.
- FACTS OF THE ACCUSATION
AT ABOUT 1:00 PM, WHILE CLASS WAS IN SESSION, THE DEFENDANT OPENLY CARRIED OUT INSULTING ACTS, BY TEXTING MY CELL PHONE WITH MESSAGE CONTENTS SUCH AS, "UR JUST A PANTY CHARACTER."

THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTS ARE CONSIDERED TO FALL UNDER CRIMINAL LAW, ARTICLE 231 (CRIME OF INSULT) AND, IN ORDER FOR THE DEFENDANT TO BE GIVEN STRICT PUNISHMENT, I HEREBY MAKE MY CHARGES.

EVIDENCE
1. EVIDENTIARY WITNESS: CLASSMATE A
2. CELL PHONE COMPANY: DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS
WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION OF ABOVE-MENTIONED TEXT MESSAGE – 1 DOCUMENT

LETTER OF ACCUSATION

PLAINTIFF:
OCCUPATION: STUDENT
NAME: KAERE KIMURA

DEFENDANT:
OCCUPATION: HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER
NAME: NOBORU ITOSHIKI

DATE: JUNE 1
ATTN: CHIEF OF POLICE

- PURPOSE OF ACCUSATION
THE ACTS BY THE DEFENDANT AS STATED BELOW ARE DEEMED TO COME UNDER CRIMINAL LAW, ARTICLE 176 (FORCIBLE ACT OF LEWDNESS), AND THIS COMPLAINT IS MADE TO PURSUE SEVERE PUNISHMENT TO BE HANDED OUT TO THE DEFENDANT.

- FACTS OF THE ACCUSATION
AT ABOUT 2:00 PM, WHILE I WAS PASSING BY THE KONAN BRIDGE, THE DEFENDANT CALLED OUT, "THIS IS MY PLACE," AND PURSUED ME TO BRIDGE'S RAILING.

I FELT THE DANGER OF FALLING OFF THE BRIDGE, AND ATTEMPTED TO GET AWAY FROM THE DEFENDANT. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE DEFENDANT COMMITTED A LEWD ACT BY GRABBING BOTH MY ANKLES, HANGING ME UPSIDE DOWN, AND LEERING AT MY UNDERWEAR. AT THAT TIME, I SUSTAINED A HEAD INJURY.

THE ACT BY THE DEFENDANT IS CONSIDERED TO FALL UNDER CRIMINAL LAW, ARTICLE 176, CRIME OF FORCIBLE ACT OF LEWDNESS, SO I HEREBY FILE A COMPLAINT SO THAT SEVERE PUNISHMENT MAY BE HANDED TO THE DEFENDANT.

EVIDENCE
1. WITNESS: PASSERBY A
2. HEAD OF UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL—PREPARED MEDICAL REPORT

SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS
ABOVE-MENTIONED DOCUMENT – 1 DOCUMENT

HEY, DON'T OPEN IT, OKAY?

HEY! YR BAG STINKS
YOULL DATE ANYONE IF YOU THINK SHE'S A "NET IDOL"!
UR STILL OBSESSING OVER CHISA YOKOYAMA?
I HEAR U SAT ON ALL THE GIRLS SEATS IN CLASS.
DONT SNIFF THE BICYCLE SEATS
I BET IN UR HOUSE U HAVE A JAPANESE TOILET HIDDEN UNDER UR WESTERN ONE
JUST GO & PISS
IF U COMMIT A CRIME, BE SURE TO DESTROY THIS BOOK BEFORE THEY TAKE YR MUG SHOT.
SHY
SHY
MAN U SURE GOT LOTS OF FREE TIME TO LOOK AT THIS PAGE. WHY DONT U START A RELIGION?
RELIGION OF CHASTITY!! \"(*•V•)/
YR GF IS LIKE A STAIN ON THE WALL
STOP SMELLING GIRLS WHEN THEY PASS BY.
U RIDE CROWDED TRAINS ON PURPOSE, DONTCHA?
YR FIRST FASHIONABLE PURCHASE IS A POCKET WATCH?
FOR A GUY, U USE TOO MANY EMOTICONS (•V•)
U THINK THAT'S A T-SHIRT BUT IT'S ACTUALLY UNDERWEAR!
DONT WEAR BRIEFS UNDER TRUNKS

ZETSUBOU LITERARY COMPILATION

DEATH COUNTRY

AFTER PASSING THROUGH THE TUNNEL WAS ANOTHER TUNNEL.
AFTER PASSING THROUGH THAT TUNNEL THERE WAS, AGAIN, ANOTHER TUNNEL.
ENDLESS AND FOREVER, TUNNEL AFTER TUNNEL, EVERLASTING TUNNELS INTO THE DISTANCE IS MY LIFE.
AFTER PASSING THROUGH THE TUNNEL WAS ANOTHER TUNNEL.

About the Author

Koji Kumeta (1967–) is the creator of numerous humor manga, including *Ike! Nangoku Ice Hockey Bu* ("Go! Southern Ice Hockey Club"), *Katte ni Kaizô*, and *Taiyo no Senshi Pokapoka* ("Pokapoka, Soldier of the Sun"). Although his early work shares similarities with other love comedy manga, Kumeta soon developed a distinctive style of black humor and satire. His latest work, *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei*, began in *Weekly Shônen Magazine* in 2005. Kenjiro Hata (*Hayate the Combat Butler*) once served as Kumeta's assistant.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. In the case of a text-dense manga like *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei*, it's a delicate art indeed. Although most of the jokes are universal, Koji Kumeta is famous for filling his manga with references to Japanese politics, entertainment, otaku culture, religion, and sports. Unless you're a true Japanophile, it's difficult to understand it all without some serious background knowledge of current events at the time when the manga was running. Kumeta also uses references to foreign literature and politics, so even Japanese readers probably don't get all the humor. For your reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the more obscure references and difficult-to-translate jokes in *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei*.

General Notes

Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei (title)

The title *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei* literally translates to "Good-bye, Mr. Despair." It's a possible reference to James Hilton's 1934 novel of a beloved teacher, *Good-bye, Mr. Chips* (known in Japan as *Chips-sensei, Sayonara*). The Del Rey edition preserves the original Japanese title, with *The Power of Negative Thinking* as a subtitle to express Itoshiki's philosophy. (The English subtitle is itself a reference to Norman Vincent Peale's 1952 self-help book *The Power of Positive Thinking*.)

Signs

Koji Kumeta's highly detailed and realistic renderings of modern Japanese life present one special challenge to the letterer. Kumeta fills his panels with all the ephemera of everyday life—street signs, product labels, magazine covers, newspaper pages, and so on. It's difficult to replace this text with English lettering without interfering with the integrity of the original illustrations. Out of respect for Kumeta's unique artwork, many signs have retained their original Japanese lettering.

Page Notes

Kafuka's tree names, page 11

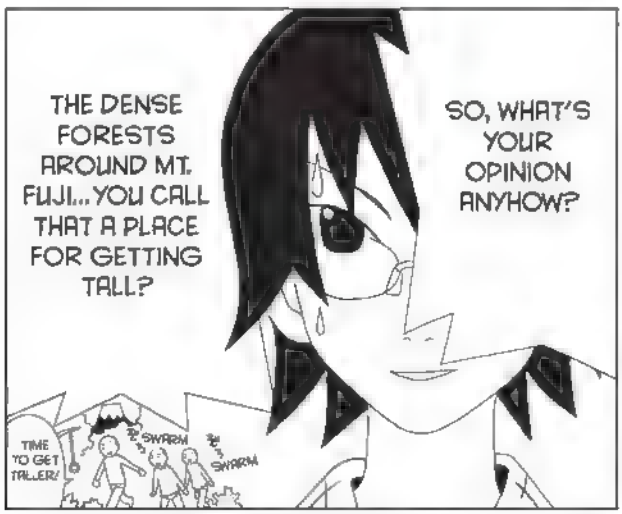
Kafuka's tree names are all based on various elaborate titles. The "*Udaijin*," the "Minister of the Right," was a government position in ancient Japan. "*Daimaoh*," "Great Demon King," is a title used by villains in many manga, including *Dragon Ball*.

Naming rights, page 12

Yahoo! BB, Livedoor, Ajinomoto, Rakuten, and Docomo are major Japanese companies.

Dense forests around Mt. Fuji, page 14

Aokigahara, the dense woodland around Mt. Fuji, is infamous throughout Japan as a popular spot for suicides. In 2002, seventy-eight dead bodies were found within, beating the previous record of seventy-three suicides in 1998.


THE DENSE FORESTS AROUND MT. FUJI... YOU CALL THAT A PLACE FOR GETTING TALL?
SO, WHAT'S YOUR OPINION ANYHOW?
TIME TO GET TALLER!
SWARM
SWARM

Inauspicious characters, page 17

In Japan, serious thought is given when choosing name a name for a child. When kanji (Chinese characters) are combined to create a name, they convey meanings, so great care is taken to select kanji with auspicious meanings, pleasing sounds, as well as an overall aesthetic balance. Just by looking at a written name, one can begin to imagine the characteristics in the person (e g., strength, beauty, kindness), so it's important to have one that positively reflects one's character. Sometimes, a person will change his/her name in adulthood, believing that it will bring more luck.

Hiro★Tsunoda, page 17

Hiro★Tsunada (1949–) is a singer, composer, and renowned drummer. Several of his songs became megahits in the 1970s. He also composed songs for many singers, started a drumming school, and has competed with musicians from all over the world. Since the name "Hiro Tsunoda" didn't have a particularly pleasing sound, and it was difficult to distinguish where his first and last names started, he changed it by inserting a star between the names. For a while, he was called Tsunoda Hoshihiro, with "*hoshi*" meaning "star." Now he's Hiro Tsunoda again, and the star is silent.

Zetsubou, page 18

Nozomu Itoshiki's family name is the combination of two innocuous characters, *ito* (thread) and *shiki* (color). Grouped together into one kanji, however, the same characters read *zetsubou* (despair). It's a terrible humiliation for him to be confronted with it before the whole class.

Hair, page 22

Ke, the kanji for "hair," looks a lot like the stylized *E* with wings on the baseball cap (especially if you have a cynical mind). Nozomu's distracted mind can only see the irony of the kanji "hair" on the cap of the bald baseball player.

"The Chuo train stopped running again today, didn't it?" page 23

The Chuo line is infamous for fatal accidents, which often result in train delays. It's a typically pessimistic statement from Nozomu.

Post-Graduation Career Hopes Survey, page 23

These surveys actually exist in Japan. They're intended to get the students thinking about the companies they'd like to work for, or universities they'd like to attend.

Post-Graduation Career Despair Survey, page 25

This is a more obvious pun in Japanese than in English. In Japanese, *kibou* means "hope." It's made up of the kanji *ki* and *bou*, which taken individually, also mean "hope." However, since *zetsu* means "to sever, cut off, shut off, die out," etc., the word *zetsubou* means "despair" or "hopelessness." Both words use the same root, *bou*.

Momogi Animation School, page 26

A possible reference to an actual school, Yoyogi Animation Film School.

Celebrities' examples, page 26

As sometimes happens in *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei,* the references are so thick and obscure here it's questionable whether anyone but Kumeta gets them all. The "strawberry panties" may be a reference to the manga *Strawberry 100%* (see page 63), which, coincidentally, also involves big-breasted teenage girls. *Fusafusa* is a way of reading the numbers 2-3-2-3, and also has the meaning of "fluffy."

Planet Pororoca, page 28

The word *pororoca* may refer to the *pororoca* tidal phenomenon at the mouth of the Amazon river, a strong tide known as a "tidal bore" or "adverse tide." It might also have been chosen because it sounds funny.

Kafuka Fura, page 29

Kafuka's name is a reference to Franz Kafka (1883–1924), a famous writer known for his themes of alienation, absurdity, and the pointlessness of existence. It's an ironic name for the cheerful Kafuka. The P.N. stands for "pen name."

Beyond the Tunnel Was Whiteness, page 30

This chapter title is based on a line from the famous book *Yukiguni* ("Snow Country") by Nobel Prize–winning author, Yasunari Kawabata.

Street signs, page 31

The signs on this page are, for the most part, ordinary street signs.

Hikikomori, page 34

Hikikomori is a Japanese term for individuals who have chosen to withdraw from society and not leave their homes. The word comes from the verb *hikikomoru* which means "stay indoors" or "be confined indoors." It is considered a serious social problem in Japan. Often it is the intense pressures of school and the feeling of being unable to fulfill expected goals that trigger this withdrawal from society. Bullying at school and family problems such as ineffective parenting, are also contributing factors. To the *hikikomori*, it is easier to stay alone in the confines of one's room than to have to cope with others on the outside. Komori's name comes from the *hikikomori* phenomenon.

Zashiki-warashi, page 36

"*Zashiki-warashi*" literally means "Japanese tatami-floored room-child." *A zashiki-warashi* is a special spirit that's said to bring fortune to a home, provided it stays there. However, if it leaves, misfortune will befall the home.

Hinouma, page 40

Hinouma, the "fire horse," is a Chinese astrological sign which comes round once every sixty years (1906, 1966, and 2026). Women born in the year of the fire horse are considered unlucky and dangerous to men and are still occasionally subject to prejudice.

Double Suicide Notes, page 42

The large text on Itoshiki-sensei's book can be read as either "Double Suicide Notes" or "Notes of Innermost Thoughts." The phrase "Death Note" is probably a reference to the famous manga.

Before Me, There's No One; Behind Me, There's You, page 44

This is a reference to the line "Before me, there's no road; behind me, a road is formed" from Kotaro Takamura's poetry anthology *Journey*.

Street signs, page 45

The signs on this page are ordinary street signs (an advertisement for a loan company, etc.).

Schoolgirl prostitution, page 48

In the original Japanese this is *enko*, short for *enjo kôsai* (literally, "compensated dating"). It's a euphemism for various kinds of escort services and prostitution, not specifically involving schoolgirls, although much of the Japanese media coverage of *enjo kôsai* has focused on scandalous stories of prostitution among middle-class teenagers.

Newspaper and TV, page 51

The text on the newspaper and TV screen is mostly ordinary news or obscure references. There is, however, one particularly unusual headline: "Pomegranate 100%? Hooray!" It's a reference to the manga *Strawberry 100%*.

Text on blackboard, page 52

The text on the blackboard is a quotation from the famous Japanese author Natsume Sôseki (1867–1916).

Boy's Love Club, page 53

The original Japanese text on the poster reads "Boy's La-Bu," with the *Bu* meaning "club" (as in *Ouran High School Host Club*). Together, it makes a pun on "Boy's Love."

Manga Michi, page 54

Manga Michi, or "The Way of Manga," is a famous manga about the struggle of becoming a manga artist, by the artistic duo Fujiko Fujio.

Not Losing to Elbows, Not Losing to Knees, page 58

This is a reference to the poem "Ame ni mo Makezu" ("Not Losing to the Rain") by Kenji Miyazawa.

Sambo, page 59

This could be a reference to the infamous children's book *Little Black Sambo* (in Japanese, *Chibikuro Sambo*), which has been controversial for its racism in both the United States and Japan.

Domestic violence, page 59

In the original Japanese, the abbreviation "DV" is used for "domestic violence." It's a not uncommon abbreviation in Japan.

Street signs, pages 60-65

The signs on these pages are ordinary street signs and store signs.

Kyoko Hamaguchi, page 67

Kyoko Hamaguchi (1978–) is a female wrestler trained by her father, "Animal" Hamaguchi (real name Heigo Hamaguchi, 1947–) a former heavy-weight class wrestler and body-building trainer. Her father had her train with boys, and she started amateur wrestling at the age of fourteen. In his wrestling days, "Animal" Hamaguchi would enter the ring wearing his trademark Tarzan outfits, while his entrance theme song was "Matador." So, like Kyoko, Abiru is getting "animal" therapy.

Saint Tail, page 67

Saint Tail, about a ponytailed girl, is the name of a manga by Megumi Tachikawa.

Tail signs, page 68

Abiru's collection of tails includes a tiger, an African wild dog, an armadillo, a lion, a sand fox, a tortoiseshell cat, a chihuahua, and an okojo. Okojo is the ferret-like hero of *Okojo-san*, a *shojo* manga by Ayumi Uno.

Street signs, page 70

The signs on this page are ordinary street signs.

Faithful Elephants, page 70

Faithful Elephants (literally "The Poor Elephants," *Kawaiiso na Zô,* in the original Japanese) is a famous children's book by Yukio Tsuchiya. It takes place during World War II, when Japan was being bombed, and there was the fear that the animals in Ueno Zoo would escape amid all the destruction. The zoo keepers killed the animals one by one, until only three faithful elephants remained. In the end, although the elephants resisted various poisons and tried to please the humans by doing tricks, they too died of starvation.

Fly Over That Country to Come Here, page 72

This is a parody of the line "jump over the fire to come here" from the climax of Yukio Mishima's novel *Sound of the Waves*.

Watching fireworks, page 73

Itoshiki-sensei's speech is a reference to the 1993 Japanese movie *Uchiage hanabi, shita kara Miruka? Yoko kara Miruka?* ("Fireworks, Should We See It from the Side or the Bottom?"). At the end, the heroine flies off in a helicopter and presumably sees the fireworks from above.

Rakuten and Shidax, page 74

The Rakuten Golden Eagles and the Shidax Baseball Club are two Japanese baseball teams. Both were managed at different times by the notoriously cranky manager and ex-baseball-player Katsuya Nomura.

eki-in, page 77

Eki-in are train station officials. Trains are well-known in Japan as "a groper's paradise" where perverts (*chikan*) harass and sexually assault female commuters. Many male commuters have even resorted to carrying an item such as a book in both hands to ensure that they have an alibi if wrongly accused. This is why Nozomu yelled, "You're the type to scream '*Pervert!*' and turn me over to the *eki-in*!" to make his case. Incidentally, the large number of *chikan* has led to the creation of special commuter cars reserved for women only.

Dejima Island, page 78

Dejima Island is a tiny, man-made island (170 meters by 75 meters) in the Bay of Nagasaki, used as the only contact point with the outside world during Japan's self-imposed isolation during the Edo Period (seventeenth/eighteenth centuries). Here, Nozomu likens his classroom to Dejima Island, for it is the only place where his students are allowed to make contact with him.

Kaere, page 79

Kaere Kimura's first name "Kaere" is homonymous with the words "leave, go back, or return." So, chanting "Kaere! Kaere!" here, is not only shouting out her name, but they're also shouting threats for her to go back to her country.

"I'm at my limits as a Japanese girl!" page 82

In the original, Kaera says "I'm at my limits as a *Yamato Nadeshiko!*" "*Yamato Nadeshiko*" is an old expression for the ideal Japanese woman.

Signs in lower right panel, page 82

All the signs in this panel are references to obscolete computers and computer programming. "Ba-Maga" is short for *Mycom Basic Magazine*, a computer programming magazine that ceased publication in 2003. It was known as a bible for programmers. N88-BASIC was a programming language The Sharp X68000 was a Japanese home computer. Pokekon is short for "pocket computer," portable computers popular in Japan in the 1980s.

Konan Bridge and Shini Rurubu, page 83

Konan Bridge (*Konan-bashi*) literally means "Old Calamity Bridge" or "Old Misfortune Bridge." Nozomu obviously selects his suicide spots with detailed research and planning. Perhaps it's with his handy copy of Shini Rurubu, *Rurubu for Dying*, a parody of the actual *Rurubu* series of Japanese travel guidebooks.

Sign on wall, page 84

The kanji *"shou"* (meaning "righteous" or "correct") is used to count in Japan, because it takes five strokes to make the kanji. The sign shows a count of twenty three—presumably the number of days that the illegal immigrants have been in the container box.

The Antenna Is Rising...We Must Attempt to Live! page 86

This is a parody of the line "The wind is rising...we must attempt to live" by the French poet and author Paul Valéry. It was also quoted at the beginning of Hori Tatsuo's novel *The Wind Has Risen.*

Meru, page 87

The name "Meru" is derived from the Japanese pronunciation of the English word "mail," as in "email."

Genshiken, page 88

The box (which reappears in the seventh panel on page 89) is labeled with the name of Kio Shimoku's manga *Genshiken,* about a college club of manga, anime, and video game *otaku*. Fittingly, the box is full of *dôjin* (from *dôjinshi,* fan-produced goods, generally small-press manga).

Famous quotations, page 89

The list of quotations goes from the famous (Marie Antoinette's famous quote "Let them eat cake," and the insult that started the Incident of the 47 Ronin) to the obscure. "Players should know their place. They are just players" is a quote attributed to Tsuneo Watanabe, the blustering former owner of the Yomiuri Giants baseball team. "Ami's pay is lower than SPEED's" is a quote attributed to the father of singer Ami Suzuki, who complained that his daughter was getting less pay than other musicians in the same age group. The complaint led to Suzuki being ostracized from the music world. "I'm the very first negotiator for the Police Agency" is a reference to a movie starring Yusuke Santamaria. "From the sovereign..." is part of the famous historical message from Prince Shôtoku of Japan to the Sui Dynasty emperor of China. "Parapunte" is an unpredictable spell in the *Dragon Quest* video game series. "Balse" is a magic word in the Miyazaki movie *Laputa: Castle in the Sky*.

Store signs, page 89

The signs in this panel are ordinary store signs.

hazukashigariyasan@dacam, page 90

Hazukashigaryasan is Japanese for "shy girl."

Dacamo, page 94

Dacamo is a take-off on the popular Docomo brand of cell phones.

eise grass and *namaniku* flowers, page 98

Eise grass means "reincarnation grass," while *namaniku* flowers literally means "raw meat flowers." It's hard to know what may be growing on other planets way out there in the universe. But Kafuka, perhaps, has "otherworldly" sensibilities.

Align Your Books Precisely on the Shelves, Go Out into the Streets! page 100

This title is a reference to the 1971 film *Throw Away Your Books, Go Out into the Streets!* directed by Shôji Terayama.

Famires Café, page 106

The Japanese language abounds in combination words and this is one of them. "Famires" is a Japanese combo term for a family-style restaurant, such as Denny's. It is also the name of a specific restaurant.

Raou's speech patterns, page 106

Raou is the chief antagonist of the manga series *Fist of the North Star*. In Japanese, there are many different pronouns for "I," which one can use based on one's attitude, and Raou uses several of them. Chiri takes this as an example of inconsistency.

A weird hairdo at a top sumo wrestler's funeral, page 106

When the sumo wrestler Koji Takanohana attended the funeral of his father, the late great sumo wrestler Kenshi Takanohana, the press commented that his hair looked inappropriate. It had a permed, tousled, "bed-head" look.

Family register, page 112

In Japan, the family register is an important government document. It officially registers immediate family members with their name, date of birth, permanent place of residence, etc. It serves as a legal document that gives official recognition and status to an individual. Chiri, being extremely precise, wants to be registered properly as a member of the family so that her status can't be disputed.

No Matter What, We've Got to Stick Together, page 114

This is a reference to Jules Verne's 1888 novel *Two Years' Vacation*, which was made into an anime in 1987.

Tarô Sekiuchi, page 117

Translating Tarô's language is challenging, because sometimes it's grammatically correct, and other times it's broken (like how a foreigner would speak English, sometimes with a bit of "Me Tarzan, you Jane" exaggeration). Given the difficulty of Japanese, she often misinterprets, or reinterprets, the harder compound words. Incidentally, Tarô is usually a boy's name.

Street signs, page 119

The signs on this page are ordinary street signs.

Food, page 124

Although most of the snack food donated to Tarô is just ordinary food, there are a few in-jokes in the Japanese brand names. *Cream Lemon* is the name of an infamous 1984 adult anime. Fans of the manga *Death Note* may catch the reference in Ryuk brand apples.

***ODA*, page 124**

ODA stands for "Official Development Assistance," a category of development aid provided to poor countries by rich ones (not only by Japan).

***NEET* kids,** page 125

"*NEET*" stands for "Not currently engaged in employment, education, or training." It's a growing social problem in Japan.

List of kindnesses, page 125

Some of Kafuka's examples of "kindness" are universal, but others are specifically Japanese. The "kindness of allowing a hungry man to eat one's face" is a complicated reference to a comment by Takashi Yanase, the creator of the manga *Anpanman* and the children's book *Yasashii Lion* ("The Gentle Lion"). (Incidentally, the phrase "Lion 8341" used in panel 10 is also a reference to *Yasashii Lion,* since "8341" can be read as "Yasashii" in Japanese.) The "kindness of paying TV reception fees without watching" refers to the Japanese law that each household with a television must have a broadcast receiver license and pay for TV reception fees, although enforcement is lax. The line about "territorial waters" refers to incidents when Chinese nuclear submarines and North Korean ships have entered Japanese territorial waters, but the Japanese Self Defense Forces, being forbidden to use arms, did nothing. "Half of Bufferin is made of kindness" is a phrase from a Bufferin TV commercial. Kudokan (short for Kudô Kankurô) is a screenwriter/actor/director.

This Class Has Many Problems, Please Understand, page 128

This is a reference to a line ("This restaurant gets many orders, please understand") from Kenji Miyazawa's novel *The Restaurant with Many Orders*.

Pantasia, page 134

Pantasia is the name of the bakery in Takashi Hashiguchi's manga *Yakitate!! Japan*.

"Ordinary?!" page 137

The Japanese word *futsû* translates as "average," "ordinary," "common," "medium," or "standard." There's no one English word that covers all the meanings on panel 139.1.

Nami, page 138

Nami is a female name, but it is also a homonym with the word "ordinary" or "normal" (although the written characters used are different).

Signs and books, page 142

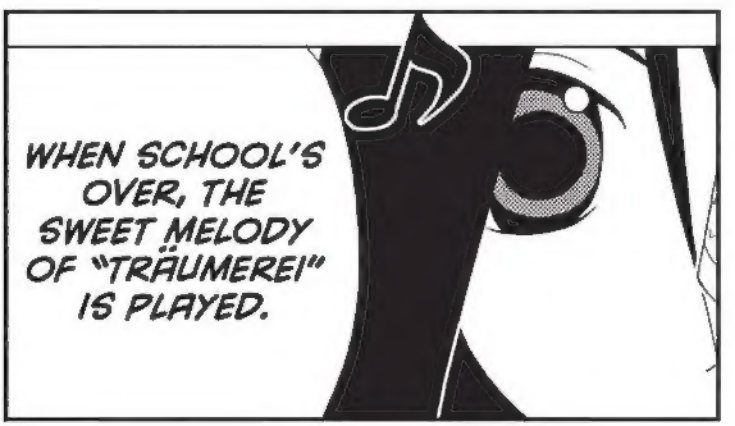
The signs and books on this page are mostly ordinary. One exception is the basket of offerings that is dedicated "To Zashiki-warashi-san."

Hitonari Tsuji, page 143

Hitonari Tsuji (1959–), also known as Jinsei Tsuji, is a Japanese writer, composer, and film director.

"Träumerei," page 144

Träumerei ("Reverie") is one of the best-known classical pieces by the nineteenth-century German composer Robert Schumann. As a romantic composition, *Träumerei* is a particularly gentle and sensitive piece, but it can sound hauntingly beautiful or a bitspooky, depending on your mood and time of day. It'll never sound the same for me after Kafuka put in her lyrics.



Assorted references, page 158

Taiyaki are fish-shaped cakes filled with bean jam. Hato Sable are dove-shaped cookies, and Petit Pudding comes in little plastic cups with tabbed lids. The "Melty Snow Cheese Gang" is a reference to the Japanese product Snow Brand Melty Cheese. Nayabashi Manju is a famous brand of *manju*, a Japanese confection. The process of getting a posthumous Buddhist name is a real custom in Asian cultures, although in Japan it is normally reserved for the emperor and a few extremely wealthy individuals who can pay a lot of money for the honor.

Death Country, page 163

"Death Country" is written in Japanese as *Yukiguni*, a pun on the famous book *Yukiguni* ("Snow Country") by Nobel Prize–winning author Yasunari Kawabata.